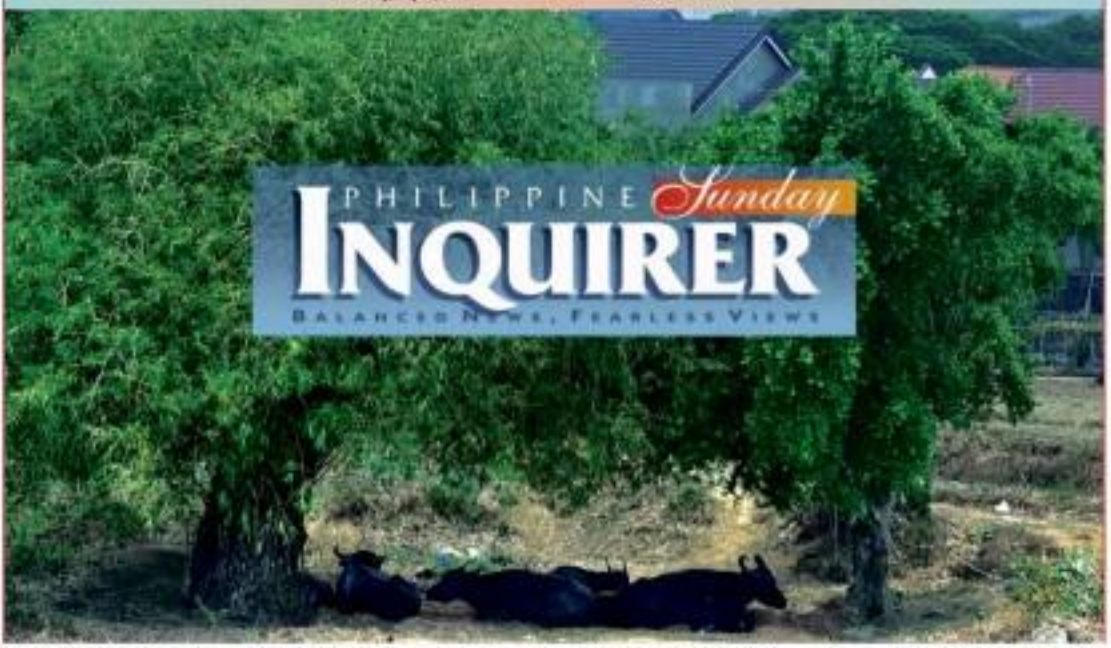
Sunday, May 23, 2010 Vol. 35 | No. 144



PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

HUDDLING THROUGH: In the searing summer heat, a herd of carabaos keeps cool under the canopy of trees in this undeveloped patch of land beside an upscale housing subdivision in Marikina City.

China, Spain hail Aquino

US envoy visit 'bad news' for protesters of Noy victory

By Philip C. Tubeza, Lolis B. Solaverria and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

EVEN BEFORE US AMBASSADOR HARRY THOMAS JR. called on presumptive president-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, the ambassador of emerging superpower China and the Spanish prime minister had congratulated the Liberal Party standard-bearer for winning the May 10 presidential election.

In a May 17 letter to Aquino, Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao extended "warmest congratulations" and said China would be "reenergized" to work with Aquino's "focused and capable leadership" in advancing its "strategic relationship" with the Philippines.

In a May 14 letter received through the Spanish Embassy, Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero wished Aquino success during his presidency and said Spain was ready to cooperate with his administration.

On Friday, Thomas called on Aquino at his residence on Times Street, Quezon City, and extended his "much-praying fist (bust wishes)."

The US envoy said in a subsequent press conference that "the will of the

CHINA A2

'GMA won't need begging bowl for pork'

By Philip C. Tubeza

WILL A CONGRESSWOMAN GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo get her fair share of

GMA POINTS A-9

With 'grace of office' comes every blessing needed

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IN SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE IT IS CALLED "THE grace of office."

Could presumptive president-elect Sen. Benigno Aquino III and the nation that has apparently elected him by a landslide count on that?

It is said that when God invites or calls an individual to undertake a task, He also provides him the grace to carry out that task or calling. "The grace of office" has

WITH GRACE A-15

'THE FINGER OF GOD' is in the series of events, in Noy's storyline.

SEE EDITORIAL

Oprah sent her TV crew to film Charice baptism

By Porhelo Concepcion Zaverinemora

ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET.

Here come the godparents, Oprah Winfrey and David Foster at the baptism of international singing sensation Charice Pempengco and her brother Carl yesterday morning at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Pasig City.

Add to the power cast more than 20 pairs of godparents led by a contingent from ABS-CBN network president Charo Santos-Concio, TV director Laurenti Dyogi, "The Buzz" hosts Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino-Yap, re-

OPRAH A-18

CHARICE: Baptismal rites on the red carpet all the way.

Ex-CJ Puno says no to Noy's DOJ offer

By Philip Tubeza

PRESUMPTIVE PRESIDENT-ELECT Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III yesterday confirmed that he offered the post of justice secretary to retired Chief Justice Reynato Puno, who declined it.

Aquino said he offered the post to Puno during the necrological services for the late Quezon Gov. Rafael Nieto. Puno, who retired on May 17, offered instead to help the incoming administration "perhaps as an adviser."

"We asked for his continued assistance. We explored the possibility of his taking on the justice portfolio, which he declined," Aquino said.

"He did agree to help us, perhaps as an adviser," he added.

The offer came a week after former Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. assailed Puno for purportedly not taking a stronger stand on the issue of President Macapagal-Arroyo being allowed to appoint Puno's successor.

Cruz, who heads Aquino's Bantay Balota organization, said that instead of standing up to "protect the independence of the Supreme Court," Puno went along with his colleagues in allowing Ms Arroyo to appoint Justice Renato Corona as the next Chief Justice.

Some enchanted evening, Fr. Reuter found love in RP

By Tarra Quismundo

ENTRANCED BY NOSTALGIA, THE maestro conducted his choir with expert strokes, eyeing crescendos and pauses in the classic show tune, "Some Enchanted Evening," a song he knew so well.

From his wheelchair, Fr. James Reuter, SJ, fondly conducted the "original glee club" made up of alumni from Ateneo High School Batch '56 and Ateneo College '60 who sang his favorite song.

Smiling, he would sometimes close his eyes, as if relishing the moment which brought back memories of his early years in the Philippines.

The revered priest and admired communicator turned 94 years old on Friday in the intimate company of his Philippine family. He was overcome with gratitude for a nation that "adopted" him since he first came to

1938 and became an educator at the Ateneo de Manila.

In 1996, the Senate and Congress unanimously voted Reuter as an honorary Filipino citizen. In February 2005, the Senate also passed Senate Resolution No. 17, which honored

SOME ENCHANTED A14

WHEN THE WORLD WAS YOUNG: From left, Roberto Jr., Roberto Sr., Luis, Corazon and Eduardo. Photo taken in the mid-1950s at the family condo in Novaliches, Quezon City.

VILLANUEVA VS VILLANUEVA

Court to decide matters of heart

By Doris C. Dumlao

(Second of two parts)

IF HIS BROTHERS HAD "GENUINE" concern for the welfare of their 100-year-old mother, he would certainly quiet over her hospital confinement, Roberto "Bertie" Villanueva Jr. said.

"My brothers and I have fought in the past. It has been peaceful in recent years, and then here we go again," he said, referring to his ongoing court battle with his younger brothers Luis and Eduardo over custody of their mother, Corazon Gras Villanueva.

Ironically, this is reportedly not the first time that the mother became collateral damage in the recurring feud among her sons. But earlier, it was reportedly Bertie and Luis who were a team against Eduardo.

In the late 1980s, Bertie and Luis squabbled over the operations of AIP Industrial Corp., the holding company of Atlantic Gulf and Pacific Co. of Manila Inc., which their father, industrialist Roberto Villanueva Sr., made into one of the largest diversified engi-

IT'S LUIS A-19

SPECIAL REPORT

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: For whole country: still monsoon partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Dagupan	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Cotabato	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga del Sur	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Ozamiz	Partly Cloudy

Second FRONT PAGE
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EZ2
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3D: 12 13
4D: 14 31

SUPER 6/55
0 9 8
6 8 1
4 8 5

SIX DIGIT (Jackpot)
2 1 5 5 3 4

6/42 LUCKY N1NE
7 12 20 21 30 40
P20,464,730.40

6/55 GRAND LOTTO
28 36 38 45 47 48
P30,000,000.00

Palace to Locsin: Back 'koala bear' rap

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

MAKATI CITY REP TEODORO Locsin Jr. should prove his allegation that Malacañang won behind "koala bear" presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said yesterday.

Asked to comment on Locsin's statement, Saludo told radio station dzRH: "Why are you asking me that? He was the one who said it. You should ask him what he basis is."

At a hearing of the House committee on electoral reforms and initiative on poll fraud allegations on Friday, Locsin, the party-list representative of Bantay Bikol, alleged that people were the ones who let loose "koala bear," a masked figure appearing in a video who claimed that the automated election had been rigged.

But Locsin immediately left the hearing after delivering his opening statement, giving reporters no chance to interview him.

In a radio interview yesterday, Saludo criticized the media for reporting Locsin's remarks without asking him for proof.

"In the act I can tell from the reporting and the news items, nobody bothered to ask Congressman Locsin what his basis is," he said.

Last Wednesday, the Locsin committee watched a video of a masked man claiming to have been part of an operation to rig the polls. Locsin called the masked witness a "koala bear" based on his appearance.

Saludo said Malacañang would not glorify baseless allegations and called on the public to ignore Locsin's statements.

Those reporters expecting the Palace to react to unwelcome news, not any proof will be disappointed, he added.

Saludo said Locsin's claim was contrary to Malacañang's consistent stand on the successful conduct of the country's first automated election.

"We did not fall short in giving praise over how the elections were conducted and in the people's appreciation of the results," he said.

Locsin's claim also contrasted with Malacañang's "close goal" of holding an "acceptable, free and orderly" election to pave the way for a "smooth transition" to the next administration, he said.

"We are happy that on Monday canvassing will start for president and vice president. We hope this will lead to the smooth transition on June 30 as mandated by the Constitution," he said.

He also asked the public not to be distracted by the fraud claims of just one man and try to look at the "major picture."

"We should look at all pieces of evidence and what happened in the elections and not just focus on one thing. That is just one person talking," he said.

He said most of the results of the recent elections were transmitted promptly and the results were acceptable to the public.

The results, he added, also agreed with the surveys conducted before the elections.

"If we look at all the information, we will not lose trust in the election," he said.

Comelec considers automating 2013 polls

EVEN IN THE FACE OF COMPLAINTS about this year's automated election system, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) is seriously considering computerized balloting in the 2013 midterm elections.

Comelec spokesperson Jonas Jimenez said the poll body was considering automating the next election for senators and local posts following what it said was the success of the first automated elections on May 10.

"So far as the system is concerned, we trust it," Jimenez said.

About 75 percent of the estimated 50 million voters trooped to precincts on May 10, using the previous count-optical scanners and machine-readable ballots supplied by Smartmatic TIM Corp., the Comelec's supplier.

The counting and canvassing of votes were also done electronically, meant to eliminate the possibility of any poll cheats tampering with the numbers in the statement of votes.

Although the evening was fun—the first unofficial results for national posts were released by the Comelec only a few hours after the voting closed—there were reports of massive disenfranchisement of voters and of broken PCOS machines and compact flash cards that delayed the election in many areas.

Smartmatic officials said the machines that malfunctioned on election day were less than 500, significantly smaller than the 1,500 machines they expected to go awry. There were 76,206 PCOS machines deployed all over the country.

Brigitte L. Abaya

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GMA thanks Aeta supporters, gives them a bridge

TORAC, PAMPANGA—MORE THAN a week after she was proclaimed congresswoman-elect of the province's second district, President Macapagal-Arroyo returned to her hometown on Saturday to thank the constituents who supported her.

Mrs Arroyo went to the interior Aeta communities of Barangays Diaz, Villa Maria and Sapang Uwak, which are accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles.

"Kilangpit ing presidenta da kareka (I thanked them so much)," she said when asked about her trip.

She thanked over Aeta who appreciated her to shake her hand.

Mr Arroyo also listened to their woes. She promised to help an Aeta student get a scholarship when he enters college.

Ricardo Calderon, regional Luzon director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, told Mr Arroyo also instructed him to start next week an agro-forestry project in Barangays Diaz and Villa Maria.

Clad in a white collared shirt and denim jeans, Ms Arroyo arrived here on her third ahead of schedule, and stayed until noon.

She flew at 8 a.m. by helicopter to Barangay Diaz to inspect a two-classroom school building for Aeta grade school people.

At the upper Sapang Uwak, she inspected the site for a 20-meter bridge that would benefit Aeta. Costing P2.5 million, the project will be funded by the President's bridge program. It is expected to be completed by June 30.

Ms Arroyo said Aeta leaders asked her to build the bridge in October last year. "I told them, we'll see what we can do. Now we're building the bridge for them," she said.

Aida Pale, Barangay Sapang Uwak chief, said the 900 voters in the village supported Ms Arroyo in the last elections because she delivered many projects to them.

"She gave us a housing project, scholarships and now she's giving us a bridge. We're very thankful to her. That's why we supported her candidacy," Pale said.

Pale's daughter, Karen, is one of Ms Arroyo's college scholars.

In Angeles City, the decision made by outgoing Mayor Francis Nepomuceno to distribute 20 government-owned vehicles before his term ends on June 30 has sparked some tension.

Mayor-elect Edgardo Pamintuan, who is set to take over on July 1, denounced the plan to distribute City Hall's vehicles to the outgoing mayor's favored officials as illegal.

Nepomuceno announced the plan in a letter dated May 19 to the vice mayor and the city council. He asked the council to hold a special session and to authorize him to award a deed of donations for 11 vehicles meant for barangays, and another deed to transfer three other cars to nongovernment organizations.

He also sought authority to transfer the accountability of 12 other cars to various government offices.

Ideas of these vehicles are new Toyota models. Nepomuceno said the city government was cash-strapped when he took over from former Mayor Consorcio Lascon.

Nepomuceno said city administrator Atanacio Alfeo Rasos did not reply to calls or text messages inquiring how the recipients of the vehicles were selected. The lessees learned that Barangay Cutcut is programmed to receive a Toyota Super Grandia, 2007 Toyota Hilux, Isuzu dump truck, Toyota Innova and Nissan Urvan Estate.

Cynthia Rosales, the barangay captain, is the brother of lawyer Eric Mendoza, the council secretary.

Pamintuan said: "Very clearly, the so-called donations of government property to other government entities, like barangay councils, supporters of Mrs Lascon and nongovernment organizations, are patently illegal despite the midnight resolution of the council."

He said he would ask the Commission on Audit to look into the matter.

Nepomuceno lost to Pamintuan to a three-way mayoral race. Charlene Gonzalez and Timoteo Dreyfus, Inquirer Central Luzon

2 killed in clash between MILF, CVO

COTABATO CITY—TWO HIGHmen were killed when three Islamic Liberation Front rebels clashed with government militiamen led by a former MILF commander in Maguindanao, police said Saturday.

The clash in Sultan sa Barongis town, which began Thursday, was still raging on Saturday afternoon and had triggered an evacuation by local residents, according to Maguindanao police chief Senior Supt. Alex Linares.

"Sporadic skirmishes still continue," Linares said.

He said the warring groups were led by commander Badi Mamendot of the 105th base command of the MILF and Abu Jamin Ampatin, a former MILF commander who now heads a Civilian Volunteers Organization (CVO) group in the province.

He said the CVOs under Ampatin did not belong to the so-called integrated militia under the erstwhile control of the Ampatuan family that once ruled over much of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Linares said one of the fighting erupted in Barangay Kolambog in Sultan sa Barongis when followers of Mamydon allegedly encroached into Ampatin's territory.

"At least one from each side was confirmed dead and four others were wounded," Linares said.

He said the fighting that involved in the armed conflict had about 200 armed followers each.

Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, said the skirmishes were triggered by a territorial dispute and a longstanding family feud. Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Arturo S. Siena; 84

ARTURO SEVILLA SIENA OF Cainta, Manila-born, died on May 21 at the age of 84.

He is survived by his wife Norma Tolete Siena; children Maximilien and Melanie Grubb, and Georgina Comsilla; grandson Rafael Antonio; in-laws Pedy Tolete, Bess and Anita Tolete, and Wally, Bessa, and other relatives. He was preceded in death by son Francisco Rodolfo.

His remains lie at St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mortuary, Shrine of Ignacia Avenue corner Timog Avenue, Quezon City. They will be transferred to Poblacion, Sasmi, Mati-Davao, on the evening of May 25. Interment will take place on May 29.

Enrollment and application for testing ongoing for the 1st Semester of SY 2010-2011. Classes start June 15, 2010.
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 23, 2010
Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. And suddenly out of the sky there came a sound like a strong rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then appeared tongues as if of fire, which parted and came to rest upon each one of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Residing in Jerusalem were religious Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered, all excited because each heard their own native tongue being spoken. Full of amazement and wonder, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that we hear them in our own native language? Here are Parthians, Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs, we hear them speaking in our own languages of God's deeds of power."

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 104:1ab, 24ac, 29bc-30, 31, 34

Alleluia: Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments, and I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always; namely, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while, the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. You will know on that day that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and show myself to him."

Commentary

"Peace be with you," Jesus said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Whenever life demands of us, we are in the glorified wounds of Jesus, we will receive power by the Father and the Son who were reminded for us to give up his life and who risen for us, he, for the sake of the kingdom.

Christian Communications Foundation, Inc., 8 Mercury St. 19 Village, Old Balara, Quezon City, 1105 Tel. 441-0000 / 441-0001 / 441-0002 / 441-0003 / 441-0004 / 441-0005 / 441-0006 / 441-0007 / 441-0008 / 441-0009 / 441-0010 / 441-0011 / 441-0012 / 441-0013 / 441-0014 / 441-0015 / 441-0016 / 441-0017 / 441-0018 / 441-0019 /

Noynoy told: Quitting smoking good sign of leadership

By Jerry E. Esplanada

QUITTING SMOKING "WOULD be an excellent demonstration of leadership by example."

This message came from Health Secretary Esperanza Cabral in the urged president-apparent Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III to make good on his promise to kick his nicotine habit.

"Did he not say he's going to stop smoking once he becomes president?" Cabral said yesterday.

If Aquino quits smoking, "he will save not just himself but millions of our countrymen from the many harmful effects of tobacco on health," Cabral, core in Geneva for the World Health Assembly told the Inquirer.

Like Cabral, nongovernment antitobacco groups said the Liberal Party standard-bearer could make a difference by saying goodbye to his vice.

"The senior NGOs also urged Aquino to "do a Barack Obama."

Like Aquino, the US president is also a smoker. But Obama pushed for stricter regulations for tobacco products that are known to contain chemicals causing cancer and other killer diseases.

Sometime in March, Aquino said in a TV interview: "Sa totoo, I assume 'yung smoking is still eventually go. Hopefully ma-reach ko 'yung pressures with the role that I can give it up sooner rather than later."

Late in the campaign, Aquino said, however, that "at this time, giving it up will add more pressure, which I think is unnecessary."

"With regard to my smoking, did I ever pretend that I'm quitting? Oh! I advocate anybody joining me there?" he said.

Last last year, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay gave Aquino some "lend-lately advice," saying "It's not appealing in the eyes to see a leader smoking."

Binay added that it would be a long and hard battle against opponents, but the results would be rewarding in Noynoy's health.

Aquino supporters have reportedly revamped a new Facebook page in other words of advice to their presidential opponents, telling him to quit smoking.

Cabral has repeatedly said the Department of Health would continue its advocacy against smoking.

The DOH, however, does not favor a total ban on tobacco use in the country.

According to Cabral, "it presupposes on the rights of human beings to choose to die or not to die from diseases caused by smoking."

"All we can do is tell them the facts ... This is what we would do if we were you and we hope you'll do the same thing," she said.

The DOH is set to issue an administrative order requiring tobacco manufacturers to print "graphic picture warnings" against tobacco on cigarette packs.

Cabral said she hopes to "counteract the smoking public, especially the youth, that smoking is really bad for the health."

The Philippine College of Chest Physicians (PCCP) disclosed that at least four lung diseases—lung cancer, TB, pneumonia and emphysema—were among the Top 10 major causes of death in the country.

During the Forum of International Transparency Statistics (FITS), held in December in Cancun, Mexico, delegates from over 100 countries, including the Philippines, expressed serious concern over tobacco use which they said "remains legal although it kills more than five million people each year, including 1.5 million who die of lung cancer."

"Smokers have twice more risks of dying of tuberculosis. Tobacco smoke increases the risk of pneumonia, flu and meningococcal meningitis, among others. Smoking also adversely affects the health of people who are exposed to its effects second hand," said a FITS statement.

The 2009 Global Adult Tobacco Survey, conducted by the World Health Organization, disclosed, among other things, that more than 17 million Filipinos smoke regularly.

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'eOw poOohhzz,' cut out the jejemon, says DepEd

By Edwin C. Tenio Jr.

NO MORE "LULU," "INGATZ U," AND THE usual boggling "eOw poOohhzz."

The "jejemon" must be stopped, the Department of Education (DepEd) has decreed.

Text messaging observers are quicker and the fancy spelling usual cute, but if "u" replaces "you" and "4" takes over for "for" in formal (hence writing, then public school teachers must take action.

In a statement yesterday Education Secretary Mona Valisno ordered public school teachers to discourage their students from using fancy spellings when sending text messages.

"Now that schools are about to open, we want our students to write properly. [But] how can we improve our English writing and speaking skills when we make short-cuts composing text messages?" she said.

Birth of 'jejemons'

Fancy text messaging gave birth to a new group of texters called "jejemons." The name is a play on how these texters type "hehehe" or the sound of laughter. They punch "jejeje" or "ehhh."

They greet people not with a "hello" but with an "eOw poOohhzz."

What's also biting is these misspelled words have found their way into academic requirements like essays, according to DepEd spokesperson Jonathan Malaya.

"We got reports from teachers that even high school students use these spellings in their compositions," he said.

This has resulted to students getting failing marks in reading, writing and comprehension skills, the DepEd said.

'Get some sunlight'

Valisno recognizes that shortcuts in spelling help texters save time and phone load. But the secretary said SMS, or short messaging service, "is intended for delivering concise messages and not full conversation."

"Instead of composing long conversational messages, why don't you meet up? Get some sunlight. Enjoy the outdoors," she suggested.

Valisno also called on parents to help in correcting the bad spelling habits of their children.

She said: "Practice makes perfect. If they do it right always, they will become better at it."

The DepEd earlier announced that classes in the public schools would resume on June 13 instead of the originally scheduled June 14.

June 14 a holiday

June 14 has been declared a holiday to celebrate of the country's 112th Independence Day. Independence Day is marked on June 12, but under Republic Act No. 9492, also called "holiday economics," holidays that fall on weekends are moved to the nearest Monday.

The class opening schedule covers all public elementary and high schools.

Private schools may deviate from the June 13 opening as long as they don't start classes earlier than the first Monday of June or later than the last day of August, Valisno said.

Private schools should also comply with the required number of school days.

Malaya also urged the public to help in the DepEd's Brigada Eskwela from May 24 to 26. Many schools have yet to be cleaned after serving as polling centers in the country's first automated elections on May 10.

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Mangudadatu: Ampatuan allies coming 'round

By Mark Meadows
Inquirer Mindanao

KIBUKAYAL CITY—Maguindanao governor-elect Ismael Mangudadatu on Thursday said it appeared he would be able to quiet the complications of relevant local officials' previously allied with his arch rival Andal Ampatuan Jr.

Mangudadatu did not identify the two, while Ampatuan allies but said he was optimistic he would eventually win them over to his side—the provincial board members and other local officials who ran under the ticket of his opponent, Mayor Unsa Sinsuat of Sultan Dilib Bituan town, an impassion widow.

He said securing their support would be important for the betterment of the 36 town province of Maguindanao.

Not entire clan

Mangudadatu said he agreed with Sinsuat, former Sultan Kudarat Rep. Nur Mangudadatu, who said that not all members of the Ampatuan clan were involved in the Maguindanao massacre which saw the horrendous killing of Mangudadatu's wife, sister and other relatives, as well as their lawyers and 31 journalists, on Nov. 23, 2009.

He said this was the reason he was willing to work with them.

At least 16 politically motivated Ampatuan were elected to various posts in the May 10 elections.

Even as he was conciliatory toward some Ampatuans and the allies of the clan members who are the principal suspects in the Maguindanao massacre, Mangudadatu said he was not keen on winning over two of his own relatives—former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao lawmaker Ansaruddin Mangudadatu and former Maguindanao police chief Supt. Pedro Ansay (ret.).

2 attacks

He had earlier claimed that on the orders of Andal Ampatuan Jr., Adam had led two attacks on Pandag town, months before the Maguindanao massacre took place.

Ampatuan had denied the charges.

Sources have said that while efforts had been made to arrive at some reconciliation, Mangudadatu's decision to challenge Ampatuan and Maguindanao Sinsuat—a nephew that eventually led to the recent election violence and killings in the country's political history.

Mangudadatu said that meeting issues—even with Ampatuan clan members—would prove that he was not out to exact revenge on innocent members of the clan and its allies.

"Only the guilty should be punished," he said.

Judge orders vans of Mangudadatus returned to them

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) has been ordered to return four vans recovered from the Maguindanao massacre to two their owners who are members of the Mangudadato family.

Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 221, who is hearing the multiple murder case against members of the Ampatuan family, ordered Supt. Hernia Sabido of PNP Regional Office 12 in General Santos City to release the vehicles upon presentation proof of ownership.

The court noted that the vehicles, recovered in the Nov. 23, 2009, massacre site in Ampatuan, Maguindanao, were not used in the killing of the 57 persons, including 31 journalists, who were massacred allegedly upon orders of the Ampatuan family.

"The same are not instruments or tools in the commission of any offense nor the proceeds thereof," said Solis-Reyes' two-page order dated May 19.

Members of the Ampatuan clan, including its patriarch Andal Sr. and his son Zaldy and Andal Jr., are being multiple murder charges in the deaths of members of the Mangudadato family and the others in their convoy who were on their way to Sheriff Ajirak to file the certificate of candidacy for governor of Buluan Vice Mayor Esmael "Toto" Mangudadatu.

Release vehicles

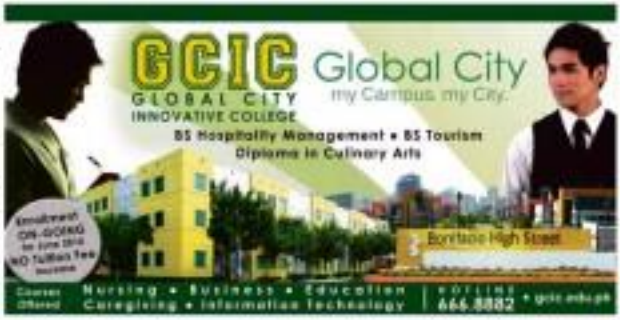
The vehicles are a Toyota Commuter van owned by Bai Lorena Mangudadatu, a Toyota van owned by Datu Bonbon Mangudadatu, a Toyota FX-Ace Commuter van owned by Lorie to B. Mangudadatu and a Honda Civadia owned by Khadaryia G. Mangudadatu.

The owners, who are also private complainants against the detainees clan, asked the Quezon City court to release the vehicles which are in the custody of crime scene investigators in General Santos City.

In a letter to the court dated May 5, Supt. Pauillo Muñoz Bejar, PRO 12 director, said the vehicles had been returned save to Galindo for safekeeping.

The court noted that the lawyers for the accused Ampatuans had joined no objection in the release of the four vehicles.

"In appointing Solis the documents submitted by the complainants that they are the lawful owners of the vehicles and considering that no opposition was filed by the accused's counsel, the court resolves to grant the relief being prayed upon," Solis-Reyes said in her order. Julie M. Aurelio



China, Spain hail Aquino; 'bad news' for protesters

From page A1

Filipino people was respected" in the presidential election.

Lawmakers yesterday said Thomas' visit was a quick message from the US government that the scheduled congressional canvass of the votes for president and vice president should be conducted quickly and well.

Tomorrow, the leader of a major European power is also expected to speak with Aquino, according to sources in his camp who asked not to be named for lack of authority to discuss the matter publicly.

US recognition

At yesterday's Kapihan sa Sulo Hotel, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Thomas' visit and meeting with Aquino in his Quezon City home mainly showed that the US government was recognizing the latter's victory.

"The message that they are sending is that votes before the proclamation, they already recognize Noynoy," Pimentel said, adding that the US government also appeared to be saying that the May 10 election were "okay."

Pimentel likewise said the US government was signaling that it would lessen its shenanigans in Congress and the canvassing courtesy of votes.

"(Thomas') call on Noynoy Aquino says a lot of things... That there should be no hanky-panky in the congressional canvassing of the votes of the presidential candidates."

On the phone, Rep. Neri Colmenares of the militant party-list group Bayan Muna aired a similar view:

US AMBASSADOR Harry Thomas Jr. (third from left) breaks protocol to pay a courtesy call on presumptive president-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III (second from left) at the Aquino residence on Times Street in Quezon City on Friday. Also present at the meeting were Aquino's running mate Sen. Mar Roxas and US Embassy officials. AP PHOTO/BULLIT MARQUEZ

"The US has signaled that Noynoy is the President. They have signaled to the congressmen, the senators, to the President that (he) is the one.

"The timing of (Thomas') visit was before the canvassing. It was as if they are saying, 'Get the canvassing over with.'"

Monday start

Congress is to convene tomorrow to begin the process for the canvass of votes for president and vice president in preparation for the proclamation.

The actual canvass may begin on Tuesday, after the Senate and the House adopt the canvassing rules.

But the process may not go as smoothly as hoped, with outsted Presidential Joseph Estrada, who is trailing Aquino in second place, threatening to question some of the certificates of canvass.

Estrada has alleged that irregularities marred the country's first automated elections. A number of other losing candidates claim that the election results are questionable because of fraud or glitches in the voting process.

Speaker Prospero Nograles yesterday promised that the canvassing of votes and proclamation of the winners would not be delayed as long as all the required documents had been submitted.

"I would be the last person who would try to even imagine a vacuum of power in government," Nograles said in a text message to reporters.

In a separate statement, he said he would not sacrifice accuracy in favor of speed.

Congress has until June 30 to proclaim the new president and vice president, although it may be done earlier.

According to political analyst Ramon Casiple, Thomas' visit is "a de facto recognition of (Aquino's) administration" and "lend (more) for those questioning his presidency."

Casiple said it was uncommon for US ambassadors to relay congratulatory messages to election winners before their official proclamation.

He said Friday's break in protocol meant the US government accepted the election results despite claims of fraud. "It means they don't see the gravity of the allegations."

Defining victory

Ambassador Lin said that even as official election results were still pending, he was "delighted to note" that Aquino was "well poised to claim a defining victory in the presidential election."

"The Filipino people have chosen (your honor) to lead the country for the next six years. Your exceptional campaign rewards your tireless commitment to serving your great people. With inspiring themes of 'your turn' reign echoed all across the archipelago, your endeavor will prepare the Philippines to a path of change, and optimism and progress," Lin said.

The envoy sought a meeting with Aquino to say that the latter could present his "insights" on issues including the relationship between the two countries, which is turning 65 next month.

"The message (of the Aquino campaign) successfully will beyond (Philippine) borders," Lin said. "China, located in the Philippines through ties of history and friendship, will be encouraged to work with your forward and capable leadership aimed at advancing [the two countries'] strategic relationship of cooperation with more strength, depth and finesse."

Identical objectives

Prime Minister Aquino likewise invoked balanced ties and expressed "most sincere and warm congratulations" in his letter to Aquino.

"I wish you all the success during your presidential term and at the same time, I send to convey to you my conviction that relations between Spain and the Philippines will continue to flourish in all fields, in line with our two countries' historic and cultural common past and taking into account that we share identical objectives of freedom, social justice and progress," Zapatero said.

"I reiterate my willingness and that of my government to closely cooperate with that of the Republic of the Philippines that you are to preside over by June 30th," he said.

The Spanish ambassador to Manila, Luis Aria Romero, also congratulated Aquino and said some members of the Aquino campaign were his friends.

"I wish to express my personal congratulations on your victory in the elections held last May 10, which I'd like to extend to all members of your campaign team, several of whom I am honored to call my friends," Romero said in a letter dated May 12.

"I am confident that the relations between Spain and the new government of the Republic of the Philippines will be most cordial, friendly, and efficient in the coming years under your presidential mandate," the ambassador said.

Japan was the Philippines' colonial master for 300 years before the United States took over in the early 20th century.

'Good signal'

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said Thomas' call on Aquino indicated continuing ties between the Philippines and the United States.

"The new ambassador's call on Senator Aquino augurs well for the continuation of a stable and positive relationship between the two countries, starting with a timely and orderly transition between presidents," Gary Olivar said in a statement.

Other radio dzBB, Ricardo Salvado said the visit was a "good signal" that the US government was interested in keeping a harmonious relationship with the Philippines.

"The United States shows it wants to continue its good relationship, and we hope this will continue in the next administration," Salvado said.

Bayan unhappy

Expectedly, the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) is not happy with the meeting between Aquino and Thomas, which, it said, "raises questions on the type of foreign policy direction the new administration will take."

"We're not at all thrilled by this early meeting. The US wants to ensure that there will be a peaceful transfer of power and that its economic, political and military interests in the country will be preserved under the next administration. For the US government, Aquino is the man. The US now wants to make sure Aquino is their man," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said in a statement.

Reyes said Aquino would have to prove he was capable of charting an independent foreign policy.

"The next president must show independence from US dictates. It is highly important that national sovereignty be given priority over imperial diktats such as the Visiting Forces Agreement and the neoliberal global economic framework," Reyes said.

He said Bayan would closely watch the incoming administration's dealings with the US government. With a report from Aries Rufo

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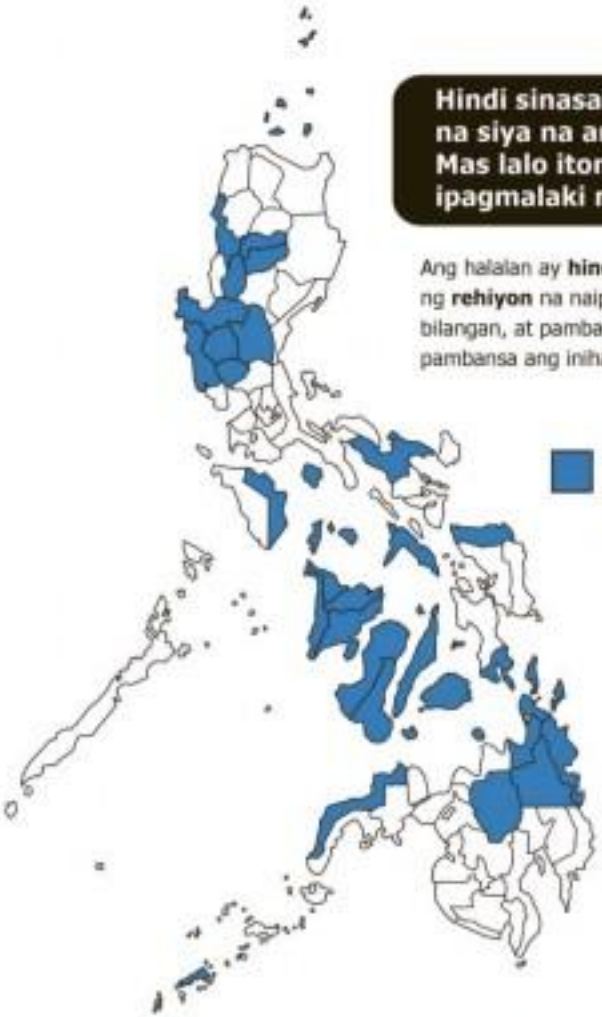

Hindi sinasabi ni MAR Roxas na siya na ang panalo. Mas lalo itong hindi dapat ipagmalaki ni Jojo Binay!

Ang halalan ay **hindi nakabase** sa paramihan ng **rehiyon** na naipanalo. **Pambansa** ang bilangan, at pambansa ang resulta, sapagkat pambansa ang inihahalal na pusisyon.

Probinsya kung saan nanalo si MAR Roxas

Malalaman lang ang nagwagi kapag nabilang ang lahat ng Certificates of Canvass (CoC) galing sa 81 probinsya at 26 highly-urbanized cities (HUC), pati na ang resulta ng Oversees Absentee Voting.

Base sa mga CoC na ito, nanalo si Roxas sa **41 na probinsya at HUC.** Malaki ang lamang ni Roxas sa mga lugar na naipanalo niya!

Huwag po tayong **magpadala** sa mga inilalabas na **numero** ng kung sinu-sino! Sa ngayon, **walang makapagsasabi** kung ano ang magiging **huling resulta** ng nangyaring halalan.

Maaabot po ito sa **tamang panahon**, sa ilalim ng Kongreso at sa pamamagitan ng isang **prosesong masinsin, maingat,** at **naaayon sa batas**.

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'My wild wish: To be nominated at the Grammys'

ON MAY 11, A DAY AFTER HER 30TH BIRTHDAY, Charice Pempengco appeared for the fourth time on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," where she performed her hit single "Pyramid" with Virgin Islands-R&B singer Jon.

Instead at the end of the show, host Winfrey was seen giving away copies of Charice's self-titled US debut album to the studio audience.

That guest stint was a well-timed promotional activity to help push album sales.

On the same day Warner Music, Charice's record label overseas, released the CD to the United States and Canada. The following week, it landed at No. 6 on the Billboard Top 200 album chart, with sales of 43,000 copies in the United States alone.

It is currently at No. 4 on the Canadian album chart.

The album was first released in the Philippines (May 11), Korea (May 20) and Brazil (May 27).

It will hit stores in Japan on July 7. Japanese record executives are reportedly very keen on breaking the petite Filipina singer into the lucrative Japanese market.

Executive producer is David Foster, the Canadian songwriter and former member of the band Skylark ("Wildflower") who went on to produce hits for Whitney Houston and a host of other artists. Foster also discovered Celine Dion, Josh Groban and Michael Bublé.

Shortly before the release of her album, the Bicolano asked Charice if she had a birthday wish. She replied: "My wild wish is to be nominated at the Grammys for Best New Artist...Just to be nominated is enough." Pacholo Concepcion

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HOMEBOYS SPONSORS. Charice's sponsors include Kris Aquino, Boy Abunda, Karen Davila, Chare Santos-Concio and John Lokas.

BIRTHDAY. Charice blows candles during her 18th birthday celebration with children from 18 barangays around the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Pasig City on Saturday.

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Oprah sent her regrets but TV crew shot Charice

From page A1

dressed TV host Jolner Socaldizo, "TV Patrol" news anchors Raven Diardo and Julius Babao, and Star Records boss Annabelle Rodriguez.

US entertainment mogul Winfrey and Canadian record producer/composer Foster, two principal sponsors who played a major role in Charice's ascent to international stardom, couldn't make the international flight to Manila to attend the ceremony.

Instead, Winfrey sent her own TV crew to document the event.

Bishop's attack

The religious rites were a bit delayed because of a chocolate bar.

"Get some chocolates, now!" barked a bishop's assistant to a customer-mistress in-charge of the proceedings.

Moments later, the customer rushed back with a pack of Hershey's Kisses. He handed it to the assistant who gave the chocolates to the presiding priest, Pasig Bishop Francisco San Diego.

While a smiling San Diego apologized: "I'm sorry for the delay. I had a hypoglycemic (low blood sugar) attack."

The incident hardly created a stir, as the smoldering heat inside the baptismal font drove people to fan themselves briskly, while some cried shutting their eyes momentarily to avoid discomfort.

In the middle of the mass are the Pempengco siblings—Charice looking solemn in a formal white dress, and Carl sporting a more casual white shirt-in-white.

Second baptism

Behind the Pempengcos are their mother, Raquel Relano-Pempengco, who spoke to the baptismal and explained why she decided to have her children baptized in Catholic rites.

Mrs. Pempengco said that she, too, was baptized Catholic but converted to Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) when she married Feliciano Pempengco, who was a member of INC.

The children were also baptized in INC rites.

But two years, Mrs. Pempengco said she regularly attended INC worship services, until maternal discord forced her to leave the house with her kids.

When she moved to another address, she failed to submit the transfer records required by the INC, which resulted in her name being declared "missing from the list."

That was 15 years ago. "Mistagal na akong wandering so (I have long been expelled from the) INC," she said.

Single mom

Charice was only 3 when her mother sought legal to bind for the family. "At the time, I really wanted her and Carl to be baptized Catholics," Mrs. Pempengco said. "But I thought it was not possible if we were not a complete family. (Besides), money was scarce."

Recently, she asked Bishop San Diego about the possibility of having her children baptized and confirmed in Catholic rites. The prelate not only welcomed the idea, he agreed to preside at the ceremony at the Pasig Cathedral.

Charice is fond of the church because she once played the role of an angel during Easter vigil rites there, according to Mrs. Pempengco.

Happy Birthday Charice

After the baptism and confirmation ceremony, Charice proceeded to the church quadrangle where hundreds of children sang "Happy Birthday" in the international pop-rock.

Charice, who turned 18 recently, decided to forego a lavish reception and instead brought food to the children, residents of 18 barangays around the parish, who were also under the care of the devotion camp Iglesia ng Pasig.

The celebrated singer, whose self-titled US debut CD is currently at No. 4 on Billboard's Top 200 album chart on its first week of release, happily sang on a cappella version of her hit single, "Pyramid."

Her childhood

When the kids screamed for more, she obliged with "We Are the World," the song and charity single recorded by the supergroup Artists for Haiti and a remake of the 1985 hit song composed by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie.

As she looked around her, she was reminded of her own childhood.

In one corner stood 12-year-old Ms. Darlene Macatuman of Barangay San Nicolas, who was awed by the performance.

"Charice is a good singer," she said. "I want to be like her."

SCHOOL DAZE

With the school opening has approaching, two boys look over notebooks and other school supplies in Divisoria, Manila, where price-conscious parents are wont to shop. The Department of Education has announced that the public schools will open their doors on June 13.

'Ondoy' lessons forgotten, says LLDA

By Beverly T. Mendoza

THEY SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN the lessons of last year's "Tropical Storm" Ondoy."

The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) has rolled more on the local governments of Cainta, Taytay and Binangonan Illegal structures built around Laguna de Bay.

LLDA general manager Edgardo Manda ordered specifically to the squatter houses on the lakeshore Laguna Kenda.

Some 1,000 squatters in this area were removed in December 2009 following the disastrous floods brought by Ondoy but the illegal settlers had either returned or new ones had moved in.

Manda said there were still more than 30,000 families there. Newly elected local officials in Cainta, Pasig and Taytay vowed to start looking into the matter to prevent a repeat of the floods and deaths brought by Ondoy last year, he said.

"The local governments must be firm on this because this area is a disaster waiting to happen again," warned Manda.

Laguna Arenda is a 200-hectare settlement area sitting directly on the rip of the northwest of Laguna lake. The LLDA has been fighting for years to remove the illegal settlers there not only because it is unsafe but also because of the problems the squatters cause on the lake.

When Ondoy hit in September last year, the water level in Laguna lake rose 14 meters—about half a meter shy of the lake's 90-year record.

Many provinces of the illegal settlers worsened the flooding in eastern Metro Manila, said Manda. Parts of nearby Pasig City remained submerged in water deep flood waters two weeks after Ondoy.

At the Napindan Channel, he said, some 5,000 squatter families blocked the outlet of the Pasig River in Laguna lake.

Heat wave dampens Baguio City tourism

BAGUIO CITY—OFFICIALS OF THIS SUMmer capital have started to evolve to worries plan after realizing that the city's laconic cool weather could no longer be fully-based as its No. 1 attraction for visitors.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan who filed in Baguio this summer to escape the heat wave of the lowlands have not been happy about Baguio's average temperature of 18 to 20 degrees Celsius, and this has adversely affected the summer's tourist flow, according to Benedicto Alhambra, city tourism officer.

He said the city government, looking up on a set of projections provided by the weather bureau, has acknowledged that global warming would not spare the city.

Baguio's peak tourist season usually begins in November once the temperature drops, and travelers in May when school is about to start.

Alhambra said the number of summer visitors this year reached 268,000, which represents 80 percent of the anticipated 300,000 visitors for the second quarter of 2010.

Between 2005 and 2008, the number of visitors grew from 190,800 to 197,000 in November, with the number dipping up to an average of 168,000 by February, according to city government data.

"Not to mention, as a group of convention center engineers from Meralco has told us, the looming drill of Baguio has not been as pleasant in the last few months," Alhambra said.

"We believe Baguio can reorient this summer because of what I call 'electrocution.' The national elections drew hundreds of campaigners to Baguio. They were all over town, buying vegetables and souvenirs."

Tourists have always complained about "a changing Baguio" for decades, but no one had complained about the city being "too warm" until it now, he said.

Lifestyles have been changed, keeping pace with the tourists' troubles, he said. Albers have become fashionable and beautiful and hotels have been investing in air-conditioners and electric fans, meaningful-only a decade ago, he said.

The city government's assumptions have been validated by Baguio climatic projection charts of 2018, 2075 and 2099 that were drawn up by weather experts.

Alhambra said Baguio "should reverse the country's summer capital" even if Metro Manila hits record-high temperatures like last week's 37-degree Celsius.

According to the weather bureau, the city's coldest temperature for the rest of the next century would be between 23 and 25 degrees Celsius.

That is equivalent to the warmest year, presently Baguio recorded in 1998, the weather bureau said. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Anita M. Arandia; 61

ANITA M. ARANDIA OF TORRE, SENECA, died of multiple organ failure on May 20 at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Mandaluyong City. She was 61.

She is survived by her daughter Ana Lea Sarmiento, brothers and sisters.

Her remains lie at La Funeraria Paz, Arenata Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

After El Niño, Pagasa warns against La Niña

WHILE THE COUNTRY CONtinues to suffer from the scorching heat brought about by the El Niño phenomenon, meteorologists are already announcing the arrival of La Niña and are warning about floods.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) administrator Prisco Nilo said there was a good chance that La Niña, which brings prolonged rain, was only weeks away.

"According to our calculations, there is a 65-percent chance that La Niña would start possibly around July, August or September," Nilo told the Inquirer.

He said the agency expected above-normal rainfall as soon as La Niña starts.

The La Niña phenomenon refers to the abnormal cooling of sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific that brings heavy rains. El Niño is the abnormal warming of sea surface temperatures that could result in drought in many areas of the world.

The early Nilo said, the agency has planned meetings with other agencies like the National Disaster Coordinating Council, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, and the Philippine Red Cross to prepare for La Niña. Alcuin Papa

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OPINION

Recognition

EDITORIAL

WHILE THE DEAN, NUNCIO, IN KEEPING WITH tradition, is the dean of the diplomatic corps, the primus inter pares among foreign ambassadors (because of the superpower status of the country he represents) is the US ambassador. Harry Thomas Jr.'s arrival last previously been heralded by a flurry of anecdotal but well-placed manifestations that this was no mere changing of the diplomatic guard.

The supposed "Arroyo-loooser," Ishida Kenney, was not just being replaced, she was being officially disowned with statements being made by officially deniable mandarins like Scott Thornton.

And so, when Ambassador Thomas very publicly motored to Sen. Benigno Aquino III's Times Street residence last Friday, it was seen as no mere courtesy call but a broad hint at Washington's policy of supporting democratic transitions in Southeast Asia.

Thomas' visit came mere days before Congress is set to begin the official canvass of results preparatory to formally proclaiming the presidential and vice presidential winners of the May 10 elections. It came at the end of a week of recriminations in the House of Representatives where a parade of defeated candidates put forward what they believe to be evidence of fraud; and a most suspicious need to try to use the results of the elections with the same brush.

Speaker Prospero Nograles began the week kneeling, darkly, that a protracted proclamation process ought to be suspected; the administration officially declined to comment but broadly winked at those hoping to stave the forthcoming proclamation in the same quicksand of doubt which swallowed up all hopes of President Macapagal-Arroyo's 2004 victory being considered legitimate. Having betrothed a sigh of relief, the country now has to wonder if a succession crisis might be unbinding.

It is important then to consider why foreign governments have begun beating a path to Senator Aquino's doorstep, to congratulate him.

On May 14, the Prime Minister of Spain, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, sent an official telegram congratulating Aquino for his "victory in the last presidential elections," wishing him "success during your presidential term," and with the usual expressions pledging cooperation and closeness between the two countries. A letter of congratulations was also sent by the governor of Tokyo to the same day.

On May 17, the ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Liu Jianchao, also sent a congratulatory letter, saying "The Filipino people have chosen Your Honorable [sic] to lead the country for the next six years," and with the usual pledges of warm ties and cooperation, and asking for the opportunity to "share your insights" on bilateral relations. This was followed by the US ambassador calling on Aquino last Friday.

Nations, whether through their heads of government or their ambassadors, do not take such steps without careful considerations and considerations of the lay of the land. On one hand, nations want to have the bragging rights, so to speak, that come from being the first to establish diplomatic connections to an incoming head of state; on the other hand, they are bound to do so according to the protocols governing relations between sovereign states.

Every nation faces the burden of repairing the blunders of the Soviet ambassador who was the lone diplomat at Ferdinand Marcos' ghoulish last "inauguration" at Malacañang in 1986, which may explain why bunch of governments or their diplomats entered their courtesies to Aquino, while withholding the formal recognition of his being the new president of the Philippines, until Congress formally proclaims him as such. But there is finality and there is reality: and Spain, China and the United States have been the most public in taking the first step toward official recognition.

In that sense these foreign diplomats are in lockstep with domestic expectations and opinion: we know who the next president of the Philippines will be. And these countries have gone public in expressing confidence in the ability of our institutions to affirm the mandate conferred on the next administration last May 10.

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The deterioration of the Senate

SEPARATE OPINION

Ingawi A. Cruz

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE SENATE WAS fully supported, when Manuel L. Quezon was elected as first President under the Jones Law in 1916. This popular feeling lasted with the people when Sergio Osmeña joined the claim for as president pro tempore and Manuel A. Roxas, his partner in the pro-unit republic of 1934 followed, under the reunited Nacionalista Party.

This feeling of unity among the Nacionalistas caused an alarm except for one of their men, Jose P. Laurel, who was replaced in the Senate by Claro M. Recto, head of the Bolgding Democratas. Recto's presence did not affect the power of the Nacionalistas in the appointment of persons to various offices, including members of the Supreme Court.

The change came with the creation of the Liberal Party headed by the rebel Roxas as president of the Senate. His victory in 1946 as the new President of the Philippines changed the rules on appointments altogether, with the opposition Osmeña solely by party in power. This rule was applied as well to the choice of candidates to elective offices, which was denominated as the traditional convention. The choice was made by the party in power alone.

Thus, it was formerly possible for an aspirant for public office to demand that he be chosen by division of the party convention and not by a cabal of cigar-smoking executives of the party in power. That is how those who topped the senatorial elections were selected.

Examples are Lorenzo Tañao who were the Philippine Rookie that students studied in grade school and also Jovito R. Salonga, another topnotcher in the senatorial election, he having distinguished himself as a student in Harvard and, later, as a member of its faculty. Both were never before accorded a PH space.

The 1987 Constitution has effected to some change in the manner of choosing elective candidates. It has abolished the two party system and replaced it with the multiparty system, which usually does not permit a party to exist by itself but allows it to operate in tandem with others. That is where the problem exists.

The choice of the candidates is not made by the usual party convention but by decision of the strongest party with the privilege of making the final decisions. Thus, groups like the ministerial candidates of the Liberal Party-LDP) were chosen by its head Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with disastrous results. Two former leaders were snatched from the opposition, with one lost and the other ceasing to be an opposition.

Her choice of the senatorial candidates this year reflects her lack of respect for the electorate that entrusted her with the office she now holds. This choice must be made with the greatest of wisdom and with the realization that it may affect the future of the country she is supposed to serve above all else. It also demonstrates the lack of honor—and also sheer intelligence—on the part of the people she would entrust with the future of the nation.

Who are the men and women who have been certified as the new members of the Senate and will sit with the incumbent members whose term will expire in 2013? They are, assuming there was no economic or fraud election: Sumon Revilla Jr., Jinggoy Estrada, Miriam Defensor Santiago, Franklin Drilon, Juan Ponce Enrile, Pia Cayetano, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Rafael Recto, Vicente Sotto, Serge Osmeña, Lito Lapid, and Teofisto Guingona III.

I have no quarrel with most of them except those who had been chosen, shall we say, haphazardly.

Revilla, who topped the list of winners, served as the plastic love in many popular movies and television shows while serving as a member of the land and getting paid for it.

Estrada, while serving as senator, spent much of his official time preparing and delivering his privilege speeches in defense of charges made against his father by Sen. Fredilo Larson, who has since disappeared.

Sotto, who was reported in the 2007 senatorial elections, denounced a security guard for refusing him entry into a private subdivision and blocked the acceptance of a committee report providing for the prosecution of the disappeared Senator Larson.

And Lapid, who never attended a meeting of the Senate en banc, is expected to repeat his past performances. Will he go to the observation toast next to the senate hall and not participate in the proceedings of his colleagues as a senator of the land?

Should this be the sworn conduct of duly elected senators of the Philippines? Could we not have expected more than this from Adel Tamano, Tina Monterverde Bautista, and Sally Sisson, who all ran to the last senatorial elections? Would Manuel L. Quezon have permitted such action from the members of the old Senate?

Each generation has its own peculiarities. But the newest arrangement would easily be rejected by earlier office holders who respected the traditional conduct based on honor and self-respect. Sadly, this is not followed by many members of present offices who hold them as opportunities for self-advancement and rapidity.

Come Holy Spirit!

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

How wonderful to experience unity and love, where we feel that there are neither third-class persons nor favored-ones

THE STORY IS TOLD THAT ONE DAY THE different colors had an argument as to which of them was the greatest. Yellow insisted on its significance. Orange insisted on its importance. Green said he No. 1. And the discussion went on and on. Then, God sent a loud thunder. Scared, all of them came together and all of them formed as one. And then is the story of how the rainbow began.

* * *

Today is Pentecost, the time when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, and came together as one. It was by the power of the Holy Spirit that the fearful, doubting and wounded community which Jesus began became empowered and emboldened to carry out its mission. This came about the Church, and that was how its story began.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 14, 15-16, 23-26), the Lord tells us that if we love Him, we must keep His commandments. It is precisely the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, who will help us, who will teach us everything and remind us of all that the Lord has told us.

* * *

We need a new Pentecost in our land. It is time for us to stop taunting on our own selves, stop arguing and, like a rainbow, come together as one. We have a wonderful opportunity now for a fresh start and a new beginning. Let us be cleansed of the dirt and filth of the past, and put on a new spirit founded exclusively and sanctified.

* * *

May the Holy Spirit descend powerfully on the next president of our land. May he be given the guidance in all his decisions and plans. May he be given the courage to follow God's will and the people's will, and not succumb to the pressures of the few. May he not take the road of rhetoric or compromise. May he be focused on his mission and not on commissions and all sorts of intermissions. May he be open to dialogue and cooperation and go beyond personal, family, party interests and affiliations.

* * *

I was privileged to be a guest of some kind of a modern-day Pentecost in the Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany, which is held once every 10 years. Every day, from May 16 to Oct. 3, 2010, about 5,000 people from all over the world watch, feel, experience and remember the life, message, passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ in this little town.

* * *

It is sometimes kind of Pentecost as we travel to our recent pilgrimage when at supper in a hotel, our Filipino group and a Brazilian group joyfully exchanged pleasantries, greetings and songs, affirming that we are one family in God though of different nationalities. How wonderful to experience unity and love, where we feel that there are neither third-class persons nor favored-ones.

* * *

A personal Pentecost happened to one of our pilgrims who burst out in tears during our Mass, and relieved all the anger and bitterness toward her husband who had made life sad and miserable for her all these years. It was by the power of the Holy Spirit that she was set free from the chains of hatred and unforgiveness. Come Holy Spirit we need You!

* * *

Filipino SVD missionaries are continuing to make Pentecost happen all over the world, to Switzerland, Fr. Joseph Jampuseng and Fr. Antonio Tinavo are doing good ministry. In Germany itself, the cradle of the Society of the Divine Word, which sent its first missionaries to the Philippines in 1909, Fathers Jun de Gracia, Willy Escalante, Adonis Nicolino and Frank Sombito are doing good service in the local Church.

* * *

On a personal note, let each one of us do our part to make Pentecost happen again in the here and now. Involve as we are in disunity and open to the Holy Spirit, and let us be as we spread joy, peace, justice, understanding and love, we become agents of Pentecost. And yes, let us all help to make a new Pentecost in our land. Come Holy Spirit! We need you! We really need you!

* * *

By the way, Pentecost need not be loud. They must start in the heart, in a listening and a prayerful heart. It was when the disciples together with the Blessed Mother sat still in prayerful remembering that the Holy Spirit descended upon them. So, God is most present, and speaks loudest when we are silent.

* * *

A moment with the Lord: Come Holy Spirit we really need You, Amen!

Noynoy's most vexing problem

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

GREAT VICTORIES SPARK GREAT EXPECTATIONS. Instead of taunting its foe down to semi-disguised leaders and to install new ones, our people overrode technical glitches and human frailties to cast the automated national election to head Noynoy Aquino the most convincing electoral mandate since the Cory Cojuangco victory of 1986. They want him to clean the cesspools of corruption, poverty, ignorance, criminality and unjust rents, for too long they have been deprived. They cannot wait too long. They want immediate action, from day one of his presidency.

To do this vexing problem is the presidency of gridlock. He wastes of "doing nothing corrupt, nothing morally" was the most clapped portion of his campaign. He promised to investigate and prosecute the abuses and excesses of the previous months of the ten years. This is easier said than done.

His mother's rule had one year of revolutionary rule—authorized by legal niceties—to dismantle the Marcos machine, in name a new Supreme Court, to change the Constitution and to restructure the bureaucracy. Then, she had another six a total of six years from 1986 to 1992 (equivalent to Noynoy's own six-year term), yet these were not enough. Up to now, the chase for the allegedly ill-gotten Marcos wealth has not ended.

In this sense, Noynoy has more cause for anxiety than his mother did because he would not enjoy that one year of love rule to escape the harsh realities of government. Right off, he has to face the gridlocks he used during his first 100 days to convince the 15th Congress to grant him carte blanche to bring America back to its feet. However, the US Supreme Court frustrated spun and declared unconstitutional much of his New Deal program.

Roosevelt retaliated by proposing to increase the membership of Supreme Court justices so he could "pack" the Court with members sympathetic to his cause. The proposal generated massive protests and was defeated. But Roosevelt persuaded viewers became sore w/ justice (chief Justice) Charles Evans Hughes, who astutely countered a threat of majority that curtail the independence.

Courage, innovation, passion, I cannot overemphasize it President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil. Rising as the leader of the leftist Workers' Party, Lula met strong opposition to his radical reforms. After serving a term, he left the country's political capital in the Board from the brink of bankruptcy.

His country now belongs to the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China), the most economically progressive not next to the planet. Recently, Time Magazine named Lula one of the most influential leaders of the world. During the G20 Summit in London last April 2009, US President Barack Obama fondly greeted him, "That's my man right there. The most popular politician on earth."

Like in the United States, our media give new presidents a 100 days of honeymoon. If Noynoy does not succeed in transforming this nation, he must immediately seize the momentum and deploy his last huge political capital, the new born of People Power, to take over the constitutional structures that are dominated by appointees of the previous regime. The president be living in jeopardy. This calls for courage, innovation and passion. Does he embody the gravitas to be hailed later on by his people (and, maybe, Obama too), "That's our man, our vessel of justice and our life-raiser-boat poverty"?

• • •

Comments are welcome at thefreejuicepost.com.

Culture and shopping

AT LARGE

Alexia Fernandez-Gavieol

MAY IS FILIPINO HERITAGE FESTIVAL MONTH, and there is just about a week left before the annual fete winds down. The month-long celebration opened with a "Wika ko Lumot" in the Museum Pambata, the Gift of Hands Awards Culture and Environment." In between has been a slew of activities, performances, exhibits, presentations and even street bars around the country and even a Filipino Heritage Festival.

Last Friday, my friend Jean Gonzalez, who's been busy promoting the Filipino heritage festival these past years, gave me a taste of this year's offerings with a visit to "Manito," an arts and crafts bazaar that showcased the best of the Philippines featuring the works of artists, artisans, crafts people and communities around the country at the National Museum. Initiated by a professor of "Heritage Interiors" Architecture by the Filipino Architect and the Italian Filipino" at the Universal Europe.

Together, the two events brought home the richness and variety of Filipino culture, as well as as many of the country's best artists and craft Filipinos, by fine living national treasures, indigenous communities, artist collectives and crafts people, and even queer children.

AMONG THE first booths that grabbed my attention was that of the "Invisible Foundation," which works with women in urban poor communities who fashion bags, purses and "bikini belts" by crocheting plastic bags. Even the humble ubiquitous plastic bags that carry anything from fruits and vegetables to T-shirts in one's hands, but when divided, can make for ugly non-biodegradable trash.

I talked with a foreign supporter who explained that one big crocheted bag uses up about 100 plastic bags, "which means," he explained helpfully, "that we take out of our garbage bags, clean them and boil them. Many like 100 plastic bags with every bag we produce." The women, he said, collect the plastic bags from dumps, clean them, and then will them into this unique but can be used as crochet thread. They then fashion various items, ours as sweeping with crochet bags, coin purses, wallets, tarpaulins, bags and God's copies of the Lopez Museum, who were our guide to the different booths, were both carrying bright-colored shoulder bags, drawn by the artists and fine workmanship. I ended up buying a bag under the Invisible Foundation as well, impressed with their quality and utility.

We then chanced upon booths featuring members of the "Pinoy Group," a collective of artists and their spouses, and I ended up taking away with an organic looking rug and canvas art made by John Pamplona, whose works I had always looked after.

The other booths at the museum included jewelry designers, fashion accessory lines, furniture, Palawan and Laguna, crafts makers from Bohol and the Cordillera, and even volunteers with the Ultimate Foundation which helps street children. In their booth we found Cebuano and cherry hand painted designs made by the street children themselves. I came away not just with bags of unexpected purchases but with renewed appreciation of the range of creativity and inventiveness found in these islands.

• • •

MORE DINNER at Jean's home nearby is happened to be her birthday), we proceeded to the "Cebu Lechon Conference," described as "a blend of live traditional performances, modern entertainments as well as documentary that will introduce contemporary audiences to the glorious of traditional cuisine."

With a live video of traditional Cebu lechon of hogs life as butchering, brochette and lechon that tour, young fellings were from the village of Inbo, invited the audience to enjoy the world of the fellings people through a performance of the "A kanta ti Bag ti Bulbulog" or "Ballad of the Fellings People." The ballad, in which I gather from the performances, is about just between during impressed events in Fellings society, such as a wedding, a lamán or a harvest. The performances were led by Simon Barbay, a Bandalisha ng Bayan Awardee, Gawad sa Kalinangan, along w/ Lirio Bautista Dumayod and a community of dancers that included many of his sons and relatives.

The traditional performances was followed by a brochette competition, with the Cebu Provincial Tourism Office's Jessica Sugbo (pictured by the UST Philharmonic Orchestra) and dancers from the 10 Mangayan Dance Troupe.

• • •

FOLLOWING this was a performance of an excerpt from the "Festival of Mapayan" performed by the Community of Dancers of Tungpod, Laguna. Mapan, representing gratitude for a successful harvest, is a ritual dance, including the rituals of Mapan-Mo, including the slaughter of sacrificial livestock and rice planting.

Both the Ulalim and Hudhud portions also feature energetic dances by women in their colorful costumes, with the Ulalim dancers and hanging out irresistible rhythms on brass gongs. There was not a note of artifice or pretense in these presentations, save perhaps for the "pogi" dancer, out of his plastic bag that the old men were hard put to pretend were the real thing.

Dancers from the Philippine Ballet Theater and micro-espresso Carlos Nonga interpreted the Hudhud in a more classical style, highlighting the youthful exuberance of the dancers and the catchy beats of Lucas' composition.

The evening ended with "Chanted Journeys" featuring the most remarkable duo in Filipino performance mixing it up with the modern dancers and orchestra. But they weren't finished yet, for as we exited the auditorium, we heard the performers in the lobby, filling it with the sweet strains of gongs and the whole of Boni seems mean 11:00 so happy he there.

Thailand on the precipice

WORLD VIEW

Yuk-wing Shan

BANGKOK—THE TWO-MONTH SIEGE OF downtown Bangkok by the so-called "Red Shirts" has ended in bloodshed. More than 60 people, including two foreign reporters and a few soldiers, died in the Thai army's suppression of the urban rebellion.

The Thai government had no choice but to use force after negotiations with the protesters broke down. Both sides deeply mistrusted the other, even though the government's five-point "road map" for a peaceful resolution implicitly acknowledged the existence of serious socioeconomic problems and included an early general election this November—a concession to the protesters, who argue that the government lacks legitimacy after the parliamentary coup in 2008.

Much of Thailand is now under an all-night curfew, imposed after radical Red Shirts set fire to more than 33 landmark buildings in Bangkok. The infernos' targets included branches of Bangkok Bank, the country's largest, and a pillar of the establishment: Siam Square, owned by the Palace, and a sedate shopping mall owned by one of the richest Thai Chinese families.

The anarchic fury reflected the disappointment of radical Red Shirts with the failure of their nonviolent leaders in the authorities rather than fighting to their last breath. Those who did not surrender, do) wanted to show their defiance. The fire was also a volcanic outburst of class hatred by the disenfranchised rural poor against the opulent Bangkok based wealthy ruling class.

That class is an interlocking network of multibillionaire generals, big business owners and their marriage-linked elites, and the Palace, an institution protected by fear inspired laws that carry severe penalties.

The ruling elite, whose public face at present is the attractive, well-mannered, Oxford-educated prime minister, Abhisit Vejjajiva, is pinning all the hopes of its survival on former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, exiled abroad and a fugitive from Thai justice. In the meantime, Thaksin continues to preside by fax imposts from that carry severe penalties.

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The ruling elite engineered a coup to secure the power they had failed to win at the ballot box. They were the ones out of the "Coup d'etat-mate" to ban Thaksin's party, the People Power Party, even as it made Thaksin's party illegal, the Constitutional Court failed to unseat it, any yet dozen of widespread violations. Instead, it ruled on a minor side issue that many claim was based on a correspondence law.

Thailand's Democrat Party—generals-turned-politicians, political parties backed by tycoons with access to the government contracts, and the unsanctioned "invisible hand" of the military and security agencies—has long been the country's dominant political force. Its core mission is to maintain its longevity—has suppressed the country for the past half century. Under its stewardship, one of Asia's most promising economies has turned into one of Southeast Asia's most corrupt and inefficient economies.

Few who have held the reins of power in Bangkok could honestly throw the first stones. So they do.

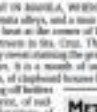
A peaceful resolution of deep-rooted problems can only be achieved through dialogue and a strong union that pan nationalists cannot be widowed all to one. The era of politics is about skillful compromises, with no side getting exactly what it considers fair and just. It's the country's underclasses must see that they can achieve their changes in the right direction—that is, furthering what Thaksin tried to do. In fact, Thaksin may well have to be included in any national reconciliation.

Change is more promised than accomplished. Thaksin's ouster ended with his ex-bosses and accomplices—that is, national and class reconciliation and trust. Thailand could well descend into civil war along class lines that would make the turmoil of the past two months in Bangkok seem like a tiff in play.

Yuk-wing Shan is a first-year fellow at Oxford, is a part-time investor in Thailand and Myanmar.

37.5

IT IS SAID IN MANILA, WHERE SMALL GIRLS RUN NAKED in the Intala alleys, and a man named Tiney was found dead from the heat at the corner of Dimitrio Ave and Don Tomas Mapua streets in Sta. Cruz. There is no rest, or promise of rest, only sweat staining the grey cartoon of hundreds of office clothes. It is a month of sudden batterers and whiplash breakups, a month of unbound houses bursting into flames, of lawyers selling off bodies.



METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

In April, a 59-year-old man was found lifeless at the corner of Ayala and Buendia after seizures in Estrella. Two days later, the body of another man was also found in front of the Bonifacio Monument. Just three days ago, 33-year-old army recruit Ericson Acosta of Barangay Bagol, Jordan town died from heat past 11 a.m., while undergoing the Candidates Soldier Course at Camp Ltc in Cotta town. Sixteen soldiers have been ranked to the hospital for dehydration. The army has adjusted the training schedule since 8 a.m.

In the last month, a local official died in the thick of campaigning, the flame of Tacloban reunited as the Iran Bailwilly, the yellow juggernaut rolled into the Palace, and a masked man they call The Santa Rosa has announced the nation's most successful politician as result of his electoral purge.

Everywhere, people are dying. Everywhere, people are the press and the usual very odd state of the nation, but the heat feels like a punch in the gut, and I cannot drink beyond the next burst of muggy air. This is not a column, or an attempt at a solution, this is the product of insomnia and unbearable sunburned and a nation who is very often reminded of the meaning of heat. I will write about politics while pretending to be Eleanor Thompson is not enough inspiration to fill a thousand word space.

Here's news in a while, on a day like this, when the wall clock decides to stop and the refrigerator drips warm dirty water, it does not matter if you follow rituals. Death the cat line, had the cat name, and the cat name, named the name, played "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," counted the minutes to deadline, took a shower, wrote a paragraph, deleted a paragraph, took a nap, slicked on red lipstick, wrote a sentence, deleted a sentence—there are too many words and none of them are right. And so, in the grand tradition of artists who cannot write, I will write about writing, and talk to the beginnings of the newly fingered law who have managed the energy to wash open their Sunday papers.

Yesterday was moving day, one apartment to another, and still I am back in the old room, surrounded by papers and torn books, because this is where I source for two years and two months and this is where I will continue to source, and the neighbors are still hammering and even if the loud bass have stopped playing "Eye of the Tiger" every thirteen and a half minutes, I am a creature who requires routine in the writing. If not the living, and I cannot face fresh writer's block and an unfamiliar wall.

It's bad today.

You will wonder why I still write, as my complaints have reached the high-pitched hysteria of a Ricky Martin fan who has finally discovered that not only does he live several countries away, his recent announcement has established he will never be the future father of my children.

I have tried, I have tried many other things. I have bounced in youth television shows and was told the public was unhappy with the shape of my mouth, and the content of my often stunted conversation. I have taught high school and found myself in tears over misplaced semi colons and a student who insisted that the only proper end to the story of a generation is that a generation should die and then die. I have tried many many other things.

I have tried to be a reporter, and failed miserably. Sending in my notes not the dwelling factor in the judge's dismissal against the suspected murderer, but a description of the pathos of Manila's fandom of the courthouse floor, the number of times the accused stuffed a vial of White Flower up his nose, and the way he'd sit on the bench and refuse to let had a photo of his mother in his wallet. In a bench meeting with columnists and President Macapagal-Arroyo where she broke varying information regarding the press office, the environment group sits and the upcoming elections, I came home with the sweaty handouts her spokesman had gold stubble heels, her smile was insincere and that her assistant had what may perhaps be described as the world's most impolite helmet of dyed red hair, and was unable to report any firsthand information regarding the press office, the environmental program and the upcoming elections.

I write because, as E.L. Doctorow says, it is the only socially acceptable form of schizophrenia, and tomorrow I'll probably write with another of the voices that belong in my head. The assist, after all, will occasionally forgive a temperamental writer who cannot write. I will end with the state of my nation. It is a hot afternoon in May and I cannot write today.

THEY SAID

Exciting polls

"I am 432 years old, and I have seen many elections. I can say that this is one of the most exciting ones, not just because it's the first automated elections but also because of the involvement of young voters, the set of candidates and the presence of modern communications that engaged the citizens. For this, we have to thank a lot of factors, particularly the media, which helped so much in stimulating the awareness of people to get involved."

—Jose Abueva, former president of the University of the Philippines, on the first ever automated election

Unrewarded

"The people have decided. It is clear that despite our efforts, we were not rewarded with victory. I come here to accept this decision and to respect the voice of the Filipino people."

—Sen. Manny Villar, Nacionalista Party standard bearer, concede ing to Benigno Simeon 'Noy' Aquino Aquino

Fast count

"It was faster than you can say Comelec."

—Comelec Chair Jose Melo, on the fast election count

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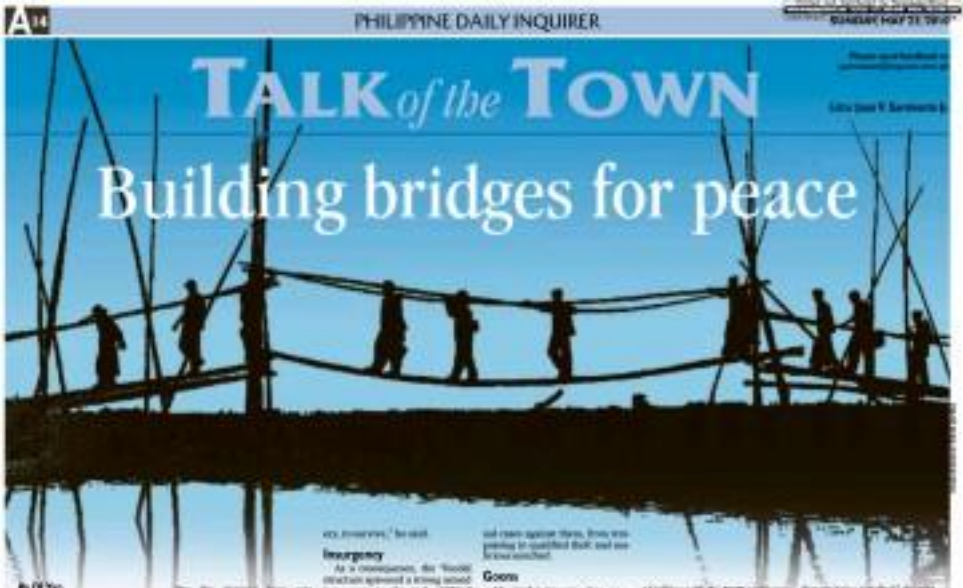
TALK *of the* TOWN

Building bridges for peace



By DJ Yap

THE BOULDER PEBBLES ON the Boulder Peninsula at the southern tip of Quezon known vast rural vibe leading of living – public, left and right—to, their case it is the focus of the left and the right that are tearing them apart.

Over the decades, the agrarian struggle in the feudal player has been marked by rampant red killings, physical or legal harassment and other forms of human rights violations committed by state forces, by the landlords, on the one hand, and communist insurgents, on the other.

But, after a long period of mutual distrust, a healthy relationship is developing between the landowners and the government, as well as the police and the military that are tasked with implementing peace pacts.

Tenant rights

From April to December 2010, the DAR sought to amicably resolve peace between the tenants and the landowners and government forces and to advance the effective implementation of agrarian reform laws and projects for tenant rights.

Peace, however, is not the only objective.

Ultimately, the project must be for tenants' welfare. There is no use for farmers through the many million acres they acted to take control finally turning hard, even as they continued to face threats of landlords or communist rebels, or both.

New paradigm

Bankrolled by the European government, the project was only meant to last nine months, but its director, former Akbayan party-list Rep. Ana Guinigundo, said the hoped to reversal is harder to other places where feudal structures continue to thrive.

"The whole point here was to find out if we could set up a new paradigm to do land reform initiating right end of conflict but at the same time getting the military and the police to participate in the entire concept," Guinigundo said.

"So the strategy here was through multisectoral stakeholder dialogues – and the emphasis horizontally and vertically, from national down, to the barangay level," she said, adding:

"This is totally, you know, get everyone involved, DAR (Department of Agrarian Reform), DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), DILG (Department of Interior and Local Government), DOJ (Department of Justice) up to the Supreme Court."

The peace initiative was established by the Philippine Coalition for the Internal Criminal Court (PCICC) and jointly energized by Akbayan, PCICC and the University of the Philippines Law Center's Institute of Human Rights.

It began with multisectoral discussions in cluster communities in the provinces of Quezon, a hotbed of insurgency; Mindoro Oriental, where Iraqui continues to fight for ancestral domain; and Negros Occidental, where sugar farmers struggle against their landlords.

Land-related conflicts

The Bondoc Peninsula in Quezon was one of the areas chosen for the project because of various land-related conflicts in its five municipalities: Guinayangan, Mulanay, San Andres, San Francisco, San Narciso and Buenavista.

"Feudal structures characterize the Bondoc Peninsula," said a report by Efren Carreon, DAR provincial officer in Quezon.

Three large hacienda are found in the area: the Hacienda Villa Reyes (maintained at 6,000 ha but actually 7,000), the Pandy Tay (3,000 ha) and Hacienda Binitin (2,000 ha).

In the report titled "Construction fair in the Bondoc Peninsula: Resolving Feudal Structures and Holding on to Land Rights," Carreon said two decades ago a study had found the land ownership pattern in the area to be "highly skewed," with only 1.1 percent of the population owning 61 percent of the most productive agricultural lands.

"Tenure, landlord and lobbying in other concerns of livelihood, were the primary source of the Bondoc Peninsula, by in the late 1980s, they depended on exploitative sharing, essentially 60-40 or 70-30 in favor of landowners," he said.

Insurgency

As a consequence, the feudal structure spawned a strong armed insurgency in the early 1980s," Carreon said.

He said the New People's Army (NPA) successfully recruited peasant farmers by promising to implement agrarian revolution through free land distribution and to change the existing system through ongoing bilateral lowering the rental to 1 to 1 in favor of the tenant[s].

"This did not make it big enough, but 'one-time' efforts forces closer to play, slowly breaking feudal structures," Carreon said.

In 1986, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) was enacted.

Carreon said agrarian reform gradually gained ground in the Bondoc Peninsula with the establishment of the Bondoc Peninsula Peasant Federation, a bilateral project between Germany and the Philippines in 1989, and of the Ellasang-Maglalahuyan ng Bondoc Peninsula in 1990.

Breakthrough

The most important breakthrough, he said, came in September 1989 when 33 tenants of the largest landlord in the area were successfully sued, enabled on the land they were tilling. Owning before they were evicted by tenant[s] gone.

But from late 2001 onward, Carreon said support for agrarian reform was slowly eroded, and the party "went into a state of paralysis, as reformists within the federation got out of public view." The grassroots and the movement supporting them continued their efforts for agrarian reform for the peace process, but "aggressive and violent-free mechanisms."

Carreon said the NPA rejected the reform initiatives by allowing down the armed revolution.

"They have been known to maintain an orderly alliance with some business owners with landholdings involving feudal structures and

With 'grace of office' comes every blessing needed

From page A1

often least used in the context of a religious vocation, especially for those in leadership positions, their imperfections, weaknesses and reluctance notwithstanding.

Biblical times and even contemporary history have seen ordinary persons rise to the task, strengthened only by their belief in God's calling and their faith in the accompanying grace that would help them carry out their charge.

There were those who rose and fell, as were those who fulfilled their mission with humility and obedience.

In the case of Nonoy, still in his special "grace of office" cycle to his thorough, and how?

The bigwigs interviewed theologians and others active in Church ministries for their thoughts on Aquino's all-important mission.

The finger of God

Jesuit theologian Fr. Catalino Arevalo asks if Filipinos can, with certitude, discern some part of God's plan working itself out in their contemporary history.

"Many are say, 'the finger of God is here' in this series of events, in this story line?" asks the spiritual adviser of Aquino's late mother, President Corazon Aquino.

He observes that many do discern the offering of a "wounded and stabbed" in the case of injustice, "with the empowered meek and peace which that implies."

"But this calls for a free acceptance of it in freedom and peace, the willingness to live our with hope and courage whatever it will demand, involving also a sanguine after resistance to and reliance on God," he said.

"This is what is asked of the recipient of the calling and mission, this is what we believe is asked now of Ning," said Arevalo.

Gifts of the spirit

Fr. Joby Sison, pastor of the Parish of the Risen of Jesus and Mary in Quezon City to which Aquino belongs, believes that his being elected to the highest office is a "grace from God."

"With it also comes every blessing needed to do what is required of him. The only thing necessary now is for him to accept and cooperate with God's grace," said Sison.

Sison quotes the 13th-century sainted priest Bernardine of Siena who writes that Heaven's greatest gifts about special graces granted to any human being.

"Whenever the divine love chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a lofty position, God adorns the chosen one with full gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfill the task at hand," Bernardine said.

Beyond Catholicism

Theologian Sr. Amelia Vanzetti RSCJ would go beyond the boundaries of Catholicism in the teachings of the 16th-century French Protestant reformer John Calvin, particularly his concept of vocation that echoes Christ's admonition between the servant and the steward.

"(Calvin taught) that all calling is of equal spiritual dignity and doing it with zeal and diligence is in itself a sign of God's grace, that one's salvation is marked out in daily life in the world. So one's confidence basically rests in God's guidance, faithfulness and power, but because of the mandate from God, one also has confidence in one's self," said Vanzetti.

She noted that Aquino had gone through the process of discernment before making his big decision to run for president.

"This means coming out the (Senate) in rigorous honesty and detachment from self. A measure of graciousness, though not absolute, in having a wise person with experience and good heart serve one's deep motivation, not just our pursuit or because of collective delusion," she said.

Having four "politics deals with power, wealth, position and (the) media," Vanzetti warned that for Aquino "the terrain is full of land mines."

"One can perhaps begin well and even be God's anointed but because of disobedience to God, could be rejected and become self-destructive, like Saul in the Bible," she said.

"Hence, the prayer to begin, continue and end one's mandate fully given to carrying out the will of God, which always means having a clean heart, of 'being formed' on the

NEXT JUSTICE SECRETARY? Presumptive president-elect Benigno Aquino III huddles with retired Chief Justice Reynato Puno during the necrological service for Quezon Gov. Rafael Nantes in Lucban, Quezon, on Saturday. Nantes, who lost his bid for reelection, died in a helicopter crash in Lanuza City last week.

EFTIMIO JOAQUIN/PHILIPPINE STAR

ground of all, rather than on what one gets, on responding to the duty of the moment with honesty, transparency and the good of all," she said.

Definition of humility

Spiritual masters often remind that the foundation for "the grace of office" is hidden, lowly and loving obedience.

Reinvented Christian evangelist Billy Graham who has advised 12 United States presidents from Harry Truman to George W. Bush and Barack Obama would often quote Micah 6:8: "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

From the cloistered Carmelite contemplative St. Teresa of Avila OCD (the former university professor and newspaper columnist Josefina Constantino) echoed how the day after the elections, she cried "for fewer tears in deep thanksgiving to God, "because I realized that Noynoy is merely the servant/tool of God's adorable will."

"And no matter what negative comments have been leveled against him, we know in prayer-faith that if he cooperates with God's mercy and grace, God will be with him throughout his six years in office," Fr. Arevalo said.

He quotes St. Teresa of Avila's definition of humility, "walking in truth."

"If indeed Noynoy daily walks in truth and is totally obedient to God and the Holy Spirit, and with a open heart for totally committed to being about transformation, we could hope to become the country God has destined us to be for all eternity," she said.

However, she said the call and the grace destined to extend beyond Noynoy as chosen instrument to investigate injustice and corruption, that they may "carry out their tasks with utmost competence, excellence and integrity, and with detachment from anger or hatred."

Out of nowhere

Fr. Arnold Abelardo OMF is convinced Noynoy is indeed the chosen one.

"I know Noy is connected to God. I feel an inkling of this when, during the campaign, I would see him pray," said Abelardo, who was a volunteer in the Aquino campaign.

The Dimitman priest and chaplain of the Philippine Orthopedic Center devoted days on many of his campaign sorties and saw for himself many so-called "graced occurrences."

He cites Noynoy's ability to be humble and receive and listen to all kinds of people.

"Very many are of somewhere. He was not in the people's consciousness, less after President Cory Aquino's death...there was no explosion, a longing, an expectation.

"But did not position himself. he did not have that lust for power. So people believed the Spirit was in him. People say it is destiny. I say, it is Providence. You saw the hand of God inside and in the political situation," said Abelardo.

But he said Aquino cannot do it alone.

"Many always told the people to rallies, 'you are my strength.' He was accepting the job not by his own strength and energy but also by sounding on the people's support when he assumes office. He inherited a tainted government. He should continue to accompany the nation," said Abelardo.

Hidden pearl

According to theologian and lawyer Fr. Jerry C. Bautista of the Missionaries of Jesus, if every journey begins by asking the moral question, "how might I to live?" and realizes that "the right answer ends with me," Aquino's victory will not be an empty moral promise and claim "but fully answered by every Filipino truly journeying in the Philippines."

"The substantial mandate assumed by Noynoy is a clear indication of the collective quest for accountable and just governance. Noynoy has an inexplicable and principled integrity that is the hope of the Filipino. In the Filipino and we want him to lead us along the path of liberation. He must him not to fail us, and to bring back the Ethos spirit, for Filipinos to become proud again.

"This is a call unto and we believe do it together with him if we want his presidency to be a defining moment for our nation in search of redemption from massive corruption and poverty," he said.

In this sense, Bautista adds, Noynoy is God's chosen instrument "to lead and inspire as a responsible and engaged citizenship."

"The hidden pearl is indeed enveloped with moral and spiritual power," he said.

LAND SECTOR SUMMIT 2010

Challenges for a Sector in Transition:
Innovation and Opportunities

FRIDAY, 28 MAY 2010
HERITAGE HOTEL, PASAY CITY

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Hon. Horacio C. Ramos
Secretary, Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources

Hon. Margarito B. Teves
Secretary, Department of Finance

Presentations By:

Mr. Tony Burns
Managing Director, Land Equity International

Mr. Keith Bell
World Bank Team Task Leader for LAMP2

Mr. Ian D. Lloyd
TA Team Leader for LAMP2

Mr. Gilbert Llanto, Mr. Aniceto Orbeta,
Mr. James Riddel
AusAID, ICR Team

Ms. Maria Lourdes Ferrer
DENR-FASPO, Director

Eng. Henry P. Pacis
LAMP2, Deputy Executive Director

Ms. Ma. Presentacion R. Montesa
ELGI Executive Director and
LAMP2 Valuation Component Manager

Atty. Allan V. Barcena
LMB Director and
LAMP2 Executive Director

Land Sector Summit to Focus on Innovation & Reforms

Primary movers, partners both at the national and international levels, and stakeholders of the land sector in the Philippines will hash out strategies, solutions and opportunities to boost land administration and management reforms in the country in a forum to be held at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City on May 28.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Horacio C. Ramos said: "As we celebrate the gains we have achieved so far in reforming the land administration and management in the country, much can still be done and we remain undaunted despite temporal dimensions that tend to blur our long-term goals."

"The land sector continues to harness the full potential of the Land Administration and Management sector which can be a powerful instrument for the country's campaign to defeat poverty and promote economic growth," Ramos said.

With a sound administration and management system, the country will provide the basic infrastructure needed for better management of land resources. A land management system includes an efficient titling and registration system providing accurate land information services (LIS) that is affordable and convenient to all. This will increase revenues in land taxation and boost confidence in land tenure and reduce land conflicts.

The Land Administration Reform Agenda being pushed by the Second Phase of the Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP2) provides secure property rights or security of tenure by reducing the risk of frauds and mistakes. Titled lands generally have higher values and secured lands encourage investments, improve access to credit and will contribute to an overall better investment climate and secure rights fostering environmental stewardship.

Among the reforms introduced by LAMP2 are initiatives to improve the LAM services by harmonizing the land information system among LAM agencies and providing improved access to land registration, systematic titling, computerized revenue assessment and collection system and equitable valuation of properties.

The Land Summit hopes to spread the word about the value of an effective Land Administration and Management system which can be availed of by the land sector all over the country.

Across the NATION

Baguio lawyers: Poll fraud hard to prove

BAGUIO CITY—Charges of electronic electoral fraud have been mounting since May 11, but lawyers of defeated Baguio candidates admit that proving irregularities in the country's first automated elections would be difficult, expensive and improbable.

Lawyer Richard Zarate, counsel for defeated mayoral candidate Mauricio Labo Jr., said the protest rules enclosed by the Commission on Elections were tailored to discourage protests.

Zarate said Comelec Resolution No. 8804, which prescribes rules on electoral disputes, "does not even define electoral fraud which prevents [defeated candidates from] positioning for a failure of electronic elections."

No yielding

Zarate, Labo and 13 defeated candidates joined church leaders, civic groups and political party members in a house here that stopped the May 9 elections.

Zarate said the Comelec and the Health Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (HPCRV) had described the polls as fair with "insignificant discrepancies."

"But, in fact, there were not so much these discrepancies," the lawyer said.

Paglabanan! People's Movement, a local poll-watching, said more than 46,000 Baguio voters failed to cast their ballots on May 10 because they were either disenfranchised or they were discouraged by the long queues in polling precincts, said Josephine Reyes, Paglabanan! secretary-general.

She said the number represented 33 percent of Baguio's 134,470 registered voters.

Alien technology

Zarate said lawyers and judges may not be equipped to deal with legal questions regarding technology with which few people are very familiar with.

Only a handful of Baguio lawyers have taken on election cases. In the country of three-fold is group the inclusion of the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines and their impact on jurisprudence, he said.

Losing mayoral candidate Benito Tacussel, a former judge, wrote the Comelec in Manila about unexplained markings on many ballots cast in the precincts.

Some ballots have a millimeter-long bar, while others have one or three bars, which, he said, may have affected the way the PCOS machines read each ballot.

Circumstantial

Lawyer Modesto Bahol, Baguio election supervisor, said the bars were used in markers to fix the field or area of the ballots which the PCOS machines may scan.

Lawyer Jose Molintas, another losing mayoral candidate, said he "could not directly say there was rhyming in the automated election system but circumstantial evidence suggested to existence."

Lawyers, however, need more evidence for the charges to succeed in court, Zarate said.

Molintas said the Liberal Party is petitioning a Baguio court to hold 223 PCOS machines deployed in the city, although Comelec officials had already removed them to Smartmatic-TIM, the firm contracted in implementing the automated polls.

Custody

He said lawyers need to ensure the machines for any data they may contain to validate reports of discrepancies in questioned and local elections.

Zarate said politicians should have challenged Comelec's decision in March to retain all PCOS machines in Smartmatic.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

BURST OF COLOR

In the celebration of the Pahiyas Festival in Lucban, Quezon, the route of the procession in honor of San Isidro de Labrador changes every year to give other houses the chance to be seen with their decorations. The route pass on its last lane during the festival which is held every year in honor of San Isidro de Labrador, the patron saint of farmers.

P500-M funds for evacuees 'properly accounted for'

COTABATO CITY—The P500-million fund that officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao said was missing had indeed been spent, the head of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Central Mindanao said yesterday.

Shef Dorado Taha also said there was nothing irregular in the spending of the fund and that some of it had actually been spent for relief and rehabilitation of evacuees in Maguindanao.

"The P500 million is properly accounted for," she said.

From President

Taha said, contrary to claims by ARMM officials, the fund, which was drawn from the presidential contingency fund and not from the expanded value-added tax, was released by Malacañang.

She said part of the fund—which President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered released in 2008 for people displaced by Tropical Storm Frank—also went to Northern Mindanao and Central Mindanao.

Kadil, lawyer Ingrid Sinsuat-Sahi, ARMM executive secretary, and Bombaro Kadin, ARMM social welfare secretary, told reporters they were surprised to learn that the fund had been disbursed already.

They also said that not a single relative passed through the DSWD-ARMM.

Proof of spending

"It's a lie. The funds were in their supervision in 2008 and there's work and financial plan for it," Taha said, citing an agreement she had with DSWD-ARMM.

She said that some of the money was disbursed during the administration of suspended Governor Zaldy Ampatuan, who "Others were even used for relief operation and for temporary and permanent shelters of evacuees," Taha said.

She admitted she was not surprised at the claim of the ARMM officials about not having received the money.

Paper trail

Taha said documents that could explain how the money was spent had not been turned over to acting officials when Ampatuan was suspended in connection with the Maguindanao massacre.

"Every centavo is accounted for," Taha said.

Taha, explaining in detail, said out of the P500 million, the subalternate advice from the Department of Budget and Management was only about P421 million.

She said the actual cash bank deposit was P223.3 million.

Remaining funds

In December 2008, she said the regional DSWD, as the designated custodian of the said 1-million relief aid, had "un-tranched total of P208.7 million that included here the accounts payable for ARMM in the amount of P113.6 million."

Taha said the checks for the remaining amount had since received and were dated April of this year.

She said the checks could be released after the election fest.

"For Maguindanao, the remaining funds for the construction of core shelter units are under accounts payable and it will be released after the election fest," Taha said. Jeoffrey Maitem and Charlie C. Tebios, Inquirer Mindanao

Higher power rates loom in Negros areas

By Carla P Gonzaga
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—MORE ELECtricity higher rates.

The cooperative that supplies power to Central Negros said it was buying electricity from a private company that could, however, lead to higher rates in the service areas.

Lagatelo, however, said more power would mean higher cost of electricity.

But he said Comco would consult local government leaders and consumer groups before collecting higher rates.

Comco services the cities of Bacolod, Silay, Talisay and Bago and the towns of Murcia, Sagay City, Comco would have to be approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission, according to Lagatelo.

Ramon Coro, senior manager of Green Core Geothermal Inc. that owns the Palinpinon Geothermal Power Plants in Negros Occidental, said maintenance work on the geothermal plants would result in power interruptions until June 20.

From May 19 to 20, Coro said, a shortage of 10-60 megawatts is expected. From May 31 to June 20, the shortage would range from 10-40 megawatts.

Comco has been flooded with complaints about applicants being discouraged by said. don brownouts that have been plaguing its service area.

The shortage in electricity was also triggered by a big area of Mindanao and was blamed on the drying up of sources of hydroelectric power.

Women execs rule in Albay's 3 cities

LEGAZPI CITY—SOME CALL it women power, others say they are dynasties in the making while others simply believe it is a coincidence that women in the three cities of Albay chose to be under the ownership of female executives.

Rebel Lagman-Lanuza, daughter of Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman (Kaba-Kanga-ORO, first district), and Linda Gonzales, wife of former Albay governor and newly elected Rep. Fernando Gonzales (Liberal Party, third district), are undersecretary city mayors of Tabaco and Ligao.

Newcomer Geraldine Rossi will take over as mayor of Legazpi City from her husband Noel, who occupied the top executive seat for nine years.

Ligao City is the center of trade and commerce in the southeastern part of the province crossed the eastern most route of Maharlika, which links the island of Bicol, Manila and Albay and the rest of mainland Bicol.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda and Legazpi Ligao and Gonzales (men on her third term) are the most socially progressive partners of the provincial government of Albay in the six strategic areas of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, educational advancement, universal healthcare, tourism and enterprise development and agricultural modernization.

"Nanotekna, the impression that they manifest dynastic influence cannot be avoided but the proof of the pudding is in the eating—they all produce significant outcomes that prompt positive consequences in the lives of ordinary Albayanons," Salceda said.

He said the provincial government does not see at all any disruption in its partnership with the city of Legazpi. "In fact we see an acceleration in the areas of health, tourism and education with the assistance of Mayor Gie Rossi," said Salceda.

Gonzalez, Rossi and Lagman-Lanuza all run under the Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition party of the outgoing Aroyo administration.

The cities of Ligao, Legazpi and Tabaco are positioned like the feet of a tripod around the active, 2,462-meter high Mayon Volcano.

At 31 years of being a city, Legazpi is the regional center for government offices and national agencies in Bicol and is host to aggressive commercial development and industrialization that transcend the PI billion lifestyle mall called the Embarcadero de Legazpi, the Ligao Hill Vicinity Mall and the P300-million Grand Public Transport Terminal with most of the are facilities.

Ely M. Saludes, Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE LABAN sign was all over Albay during the campaign of Sen. Benigno Aquino III in the province. The province's three cities elected three women mayors belonging to administration party Laban Kampi-CMD.

INQUIRER Mindanao

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A Speaker falls, a daughter rises

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

THE ELECTION campaign of Speaker Prospero "Bebot" Nograles, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was hashed by a machinery connected to Malacañang. It was to be his strongest asset in paving an end to the leadership of Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and installing a new brand of governance in Davao City.

Even before the campaign period started, Team Nograles already showed it meant business when it exposed "questionable" transactions worth millions of pesos of the Duterte administration, including the purchase of garbage bins for P200 million.

"Change we need, change we mean," the group proclaimed in its election slogan.

Still, Nograles' childhood ambition to become city mayor went nowhere, crushed by a 31-year-old opponent and his enemy's daughter, Sara (or Inday Sara) Duterte.

Jupiril M. Bueno, a professor of Sociology and Political Science at Assumption College of Davao, said the Speaker's connection with the Arroyo administration weakened his chances of winning over Sara.

"His alliance with Ms Arroyo tainted his credibility. It sent the signal that he, too, will be like her ... He is being seen as the opposite of the Dutertes, who are perceived as leaders who do not bootlick, straightforward, transparent and open to guard themselves with styles or political specimens and willing to commit for the people's issues," Bueno said.

'Malacañang boy'

The tag of "Malacañang boy," said lawyer Carlos Isagani Zarate, was a baggage for the Speaker, especially with the people's first-hand sightings of Ms Arroyo. It was also to be blamed for his defeat, he said.

"There is a natural anti-Arroyo sentiment across the country and Duterte capitalized on the relationship of Ms Arroyo and Nograles. In his stories, he hashed on the support of Nograles to change the Constitution," Zarate said.

The lawyer, however, noted that while Duterte had also maintained his friendly relationship with the President, the people of Davao would rather choose him over Nograles because "he has his way of connecting to the people."

Even the campaign slogan of Team Nograles was not able to boost the Speaker's popularity to the people, Zarate said.

"The message ... failed to resonate in the people. They did not understand what was it he was trying to get across. In Davao City, the people were not thinking of Nograles whenever they encounter the word change. He think he was not the right person to advocate change. For the people, Nograles was not the alternative leader," he said.

New style of governance?

In the Team Nograles website, the Speaker explained that his candidacy was "not about personal or political rivalry but about a new style of governance."

"This is about refusing to accept the abuses and excesses of the present residents of City Hall who have fused the executive and legislative powers of the city government while their son and daughter run the city like a family corporation, draining funds as they see fit and making a mockery of the time honored principle of check and balance in government," Nograles said.

He said this was his response to the resounding cry for change in Davao.

"This is about freedom from fear for those who choose to disagree with the tyrants of City Hall. Freedom to express their sentiments, however distasteful it may be to City Hall without fear of reprisal. It is about a government where harassment and death are not the price of freedom of expression," Nograles said.

"This candidacy is about restoring decency in leadership, respecting the rights and upholding the dignity of every individual, placing the welfare of the people above all else."

The allegations of Duterte wrongdoings, Zarate said, caused a painful backlash to Team Nograles.

Anticommunist

The people, Zarate said, were also not happy that Nograles appeared to be having the support of anticommunist personalities Jovito Palparan of the Bantay party-list group and Prospero Alcover of the Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy.

"The attacks against Duterte by Palparan and Alcover turned off the people, even the middle class who was scared that Davao will become a battlefield. Apparently, even the assassination of Alcover and Palparan to Nograles was to be blamed," Zarate said.

Bueno said that Nograles' lost by a landslide margin in Duterte was due to his alleged attack, arrogance, and close association against local media practitioners and members of leftist organizations.

"His alliance with Palparan and Alcover who don't have any political base in Davao City and known for their anticommunist activities, violent methods in counterinsurgency and political activities also added to his present political fate," Bueno said.

Media reaction

"Nograles also failed to recognize the influential power of the media and the decisive political base of the left in most part of the peasant communities and within the urban poor," Bueno said.

When Sara was leading in the race, among those who rejoiced were journalists who had experienced being "badly treated" by Nograles.

"It was not about Sara at all. Obviously it was a sigh of relief because the Davao media has been gripped by fear that if Nograles will win, they will have a difficult time. But actually it only showed how badly and how tained his relationship with the media and the public," said a lawyer friend of Nograles, who confessed to having voted for Sara.

The lawyer, who declined to be identified, said it is no secret how Nograles chastised the media for unfairly projecting him to public.

A television reporter said: "I cheered because Sara's victory was also the victory of the Davao journalists. It could have been anyone not Sara (here) and I would still secretly support that person...anyone against a public official who pushed for the passage of the right of reply bill in congress. I still stress vote for someone who bullies the media."

But while Nograles lost, he should be thankful that he still has the support of the people in the first district of Davao, where his son Karlo won in the congressional race.Nograles got 100,231 votes while Sara got 388,963).

Bueno also said that Nograles' defeat was courtesy of the political consciousness of the voters.

Duterte image

"The Dutertes are also well-loved by the masses of Davao City because of their support to the every aspiration and struggle of the people for true governance, peace and not for elitist governance standing and using slogans of 'change we mean' which still needs to be proven," Bueno said.

They also know "how to humbly accept their weaknesses unlike the arrogance of the Nograles," he said.

Things got even worse for Nograles, Zarate said, when his relationship with Lakas-Kampi-CMD turned bitter.

"He started with the party personalities compounded his problem. It was very damaging for the party and more especially for him. People all the times doubted his capacity to effect change in Davao because there was no national party which was backing him," Zarate said.

Zarate said it created psychological effect even to those who were still undecided to choose him or Sara that Nograles cannot deliver the change he was offering.

Nograles, he said, also failed to convince the youth that he was better than Sara. The young people can easily associate themselves with her, Zarate said.

CLAIMING credit for this road project in Davao City, financed by taxpayers' money, apparently failed to give a win for Speaker Prospero Nograles in his bid to become city mayor. Nograles lost by a big margin to Sara Duterte, daughter of incumbent Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, and is now eying head.

OUTGOING SPEAKER Prospero Nograles greets President Macapagal-Arroyo as he joins Ms Arroyo's trip last year to Thailand, sticking all the way with the outgoing President and earning the distinction of being one of her most trusted lieutenants.

'His alliance with Ms Arroyo tainted his credibility. It sent the signal that he, too, will be like her ... He is being seen as the opposite of the Dutertes, who are perceived as leaders who do not bootlick ...'

77 YEARS IN RP Fr. James Reuter in tears during his birthday Mass. His head shakes, his voice trembles but his message of love is clear.

REUTER'S BOYS Fr. James Reuter leads some members of the original Women Shoe Club (WSC) of '54, College '60,—who were more boys than and are now grandfathers—in singing "Some Enchanted Evening," the centenarian's favorite song.

Some enchanted evening, Fr. Reuter found love in RP

From page A1

the American Jesuit for his "extraordinary and unparalleled life of service to the Filipino people."

"When I first came here, I thought I was bringing God to the Philippines. But when I discovered was (the Filipinos) brought God in me," said a tearful Reuter as the end of a sunset Mass held to celebration of his birthday.

"I am very grateful to God for bringing me here because (I have learned the) love of God and the love of men for each other—what it can be, how severe it is, how touching and how it rewards the heart of the faith which is love," he said in his sweet echo.

His head shook, his voice trembled as he addressed a congregation of old friends at the Our Lady of Peace hospital in Parañaque, his home for close to a year now.

World's most lovable

His message, however, was clear: He had found love in the Philippines and the Filipinos had taught him the true meaning of faith.

"It is because the Filipinos ...and God forgive me for saying this and it's really 100 percent true...are the most lovable people in the world. You don't realize that. You don't realize what God has given (you)," Reuter said later in an interview.

Reuter knew early on that he had found a home in the Philippines. He was 23 during World War II, when a Filipino family moved him as one of their own to a group of Japanese men.

His friend from the Ateneo, Rogelio Le'O, had brought him to his family's home for a meal.

"As soon as they (the Japanese) saw me, they stopped smiling. They looked at me and asked Mrs. Le'O 'who is that?.' Reuter recounted, mimicking an angry voice.

"She said: 'That's my son,' and she really meant it! The Filipinos, they adopted every body who came in through the door," Reuter said.

'Lightness of character'

Though frail because of age, Reuter was jovial during the celebration organized by alumnae of the St. Paul College Manila and the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission Inc. (FOLPMI), where Reuter is board chair.

He gamely posed for photos and chatted with well-wishers. He asked for his glasses to see a video presentation prepared in his honor. His eyes lit up when he saw old photos and quotes flashed on the screen.

"I like that one," he said with a chuckle upon seeing a black-and-white picture of himself as a young man.

"He has a lightness of character" was how his private nurse, 24-year-old Christy Torres, described Reuter. She has been looking after him for 11 months now.

"He's good, he's very kind. He taught me how to be generous. When he's in a good mood, he can tell you a lot of stories," Torres said.

Fund-raiser

To spread Reuter's message of love, FOLPMI officials launched the Fr. Reuter Love Offering that aims to raise P800 million to support the foundation's activities, among them shelter, education, health and livelihood programs.

Carrying out a mission that Reuter has pursued since he first came to the Philippines, FOLPMI supports urban poor communities and indigenous people around the country. Its Dar Mission, FOLPMI president, described the organization's approach as tackling "total human development" by extending holistic assistance to beneficiaries.

Lynne Maceda, FOLPMI special projects coordinator, said the organization's first project, Bond, aims to encourage individuals and firms to contribute money which they would put in a trust fund.

"We'd like our friends to nominate individuals or corporations to pledge contributions. Our projects need around P6 million a month for the operations. If we can raise a P600-million trust fund, we can maximize operations just through its interest," Maceda said.

Filipino-style of giving

But Reuter, giving means more than just money—another trait that has endeared him to the Filipinos.

"It's not the money, it is you. If you are with the poor, if you are present each done, if you are there to help them as much as you can...that is what they need," he said.

"They need love. Love is worth much more than money. If you want to help the poor, you go and meet them and live with them. Try to give them what they need when they need it, that's the thing," Reuter said.

He said this sense of giving was "natural for Filipinos."

"They never go for money. The Filipino is, at heart, giving. That's the essence of society," Reuter said.

AT HOME For the past 11 months Fr. Reuter has lived in the Our Lady of Peace Hospital. He's a chair of its foundation.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

It's up to the court to decide matters of the heart

From page A1

meeting and conversation firm in the Philippines at that time.

Islamic Cash was part of a multinational firm put up by US entrepreneurs in the early 1990s. It was the first to prove the viability of luring Filipino labor, especially for overseas projects.

When the global Islamic Cash group downsizedlured, the Philippine unit was spun off, a controlling stake was later acquired by Villanueva Sr.

Overexposure

One of the country's first tycoons, Villanueva Sr. also became the first chief of the Coordinating Council for the Philippine Assistance Plan, a post wherein government took that envisions the flow of institutional and bilateral funding for infrastructure and social projects. He died in 1995.

Business old timers recall that the Villanueva's wide empire suffered due to overexpansion. The last straw was the Asian currency crisis, which created a rapid rise in interest rates and a sharp devaluation of the peso that, in turn, choked many businesses.

Bruce mitt said. Ben pockets, the Villanueva accepted the Gamanjit offer to take over the company without the 5th grant, thereby eliminating a major industry competitor.

Throughout the years, Bertie and Luz reportedly had major differences over how to handle the family businesses.

Abandoned

Rose Bertie is saying feel over the "other stone" purportedly inherited by his brothers on their mother. But they are like-wise accusing him of neglecting her.

In various pleadings filed with the Regional Trial Court of Tagaig City, Eduardo, the youngest son, said his mother herself had requested him to live with her in her house in South Forbes Park in consideration of her advanced age and fragile state.

He said he realized the urgency of heeding her request because she had long been "abandoned" and "left alone" by Bertie to the care of house hold helpers.

Eduardo argued that his mother's execution of a "durable" medical power of attorney in his favor on Jan. 20 was in the exercise of her civil rights.

Backed by Luz, Eduardo said Bertie had always lived separately and independently from their mother "by reason of his gout and lingering divorce-ing health."

"This situation caused, in effect, the abandonment and unbalanced Gracious," Luz and Ed-uardo said in a joint pleading dated May 6.

"Knowing and realizing the physical, mental and psychological condition of his mother, Eduardo, without any hesitation, immediately took custody and care of his mother Corazon since January 2020 and up to the present time," they said.

Prodigal son

But Bertie and his family, who are represented by the Punce Bonle Reyes and Manabat Law Office, questioned Eduardo's motives, claiming he was out of the picture for over a decade and, like the biblical prodigal son, had demanded his inheritance even when their father was alive.

They said that attempt to ask for a weekly cash allowance from their mother when his brother was out, Eduardo hardly saw her. But he made a turnaround after her 100th birthday in January, when he moved into her house and subsequently obtained a medical power of attorney.

"We found out he was tricked out of where he lived. Maybe that's why he's (in his mother's house)," a family member said.

But in their counter-pleading, Luz and Eduardo said it was Bertie who seemed to have done nothing for their mother's care, in comparison with their own efforts.

They said that while Bertie lives nearby, the most he declare that they had no custody of their mother, neither was he claiming custody of her.

Bertie is asking the court to order that Corazon Villanueva be removed from St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig and returned to her house, in compliance with her purported wish.

He said that given her advanced age, his brother might not be able to withstand harsh medical treatments.

But his brothers argued that in a Filipino family, it was "normal and customary" for the children to have custody of their mother.

"Such custodial rights cannot be delegated to persons who are not immediate members of the family," they said.

They added that they had been providing their mother round-the-clock care by two registered nurses and two caregivers at their personal expense.

Habeas corpus

On April 30, following Bertie's petition for habeas corpus as relief from unlawful detention, the Taguig RTC ordered Eduardo to present his mother in a court hearing on May 9.

But Luz and Eduardo told the court in an urgent motion that their mother was "not physically, mentally and psychologically fit to appear in court."

In a report to the court dated April 26, St. Luke's denied that it had helped hide Corazon Villanueva or that she was being illegally detained in its premises.

It said Eduardo brought the 89-year-old matriarch on April 13 and that Luz appeared to be the one responsible for the expenses.

It added that Eduardo had issued instructions to treat the patient's confinement as "strictly confidential," and that the hospital's various departments were subsequently notified to that effect.

"St. Luke's had no actively abide by the instruction lest it become liable to the patient or Eduardo," the hospital said in a report prepared by its legal counsel, Quisaba Arellesta Brua & Mabanta Law Offices.

Because of her youngest son's instruction, Corazon Villanueva was referred to as a "ghost" patient, meaning that St. Luke's would not reveal any fact or circumstance to any person or entity in connection with her confinement.

The explained why Bertie and his family had difficulty locating his mother even when she was in St. Luke's all along.

But the hospital denied that it had charged the patient's name to "Beatrice Ores," as alleged by Bertie, and presented medical records identifying her as "Corazon Villanueva."

Jealousy

Bertie said the situation might be a result of his younger brothers hating him since childhood and wanting to getting back at him.

"Maybe it's professional jealousy because my father was always partial to me and my family in the endeavors of the two. Against, proving decision (Now they're getting back)," he said the hearing on May 9.

Bertie said that if his brothers seemed to further confine their mother at the hospital or take custody of her, they should file a proper case for guardianship.

His petition to resolve custody is close almost as trailblazing the medical power of attorney executed by Eduardo.

The controversial "impossibility clause" stating: "To protect the against being taken undue advantage of in this twilight of my years, no joint power of attorney bearing my signature shall be deemed to have revoked, cancelled or set aside this durable medical power of attorney ..."

"From a personal point of view, it's my family who has attended to my folks more than Eduardo ever did or miss," Bertie said, adding:

"That seemed to be the norm through the years. There was a time when my father died, the one next to me, Luis, decided to isolate my mother from all of her friends and even from family such it upon himself to take care of my mother, to-or exclusive."

In his petition, Bertie said this new act of supressing their mother and hiding her away from his family could be a ploy to make her sign documents that might lead to a "dissipation of assets."

Money not the issue

The lawyers had sought an audience with Luis and Eduardo, to no avail.

On May 6, Luis sent word that the conflict was not at issue of inheritance because Bertie's side of the family "already has everything."

Bertie and Villanueva simply want, as relayed through a family friend, is to protect their mother's interest.

The contending brothers claimed that their mother had no large wealth to fight about.

But according to Bertie, his mother's money may have long been depleted although she still has some assets from his father's estate, such as pieces of property in Baguio City and in Bicol.

He said "there's no-well) that we know of," he said.

Now it is up to the court to decide what is best for Corazon Villanueva.

The clock is ticking and she does not have much time left.

VILLANUEVAS WITH PRESIDENT CORY AQUINO Second from left, Luis Villanueva; Cecilia Jones of Maryland); Roberto Villanueva Sr., President Corazon Aquino, Corazon Villanueva, Roberto Jr., Pilar (in the off-cam); Standing from left, Cito (in the off-shoulder), Eduardo Villanueva, Maryland's mother brothers Roberto Villanueva III, Carlo, Jonar Trist and cousin. Photo taken in Malacañang during the oath-taking of Roberto Sr. as chair of the Philippine Assistance Program during the Aquino administration. Standing fourth from right is the late Luis Villanueva who became a business journalist. (See story at right.)

THE GOOD LIFE The house of Roberto Villanueva Sr. and wife Corazon Cruz Villanueva on a 1,106-square-meter lot at No. 41 Banaba St., South Forbes, Makati City

A death in the family

On SEPT. 24, 2009, 2020 Luis Villanueva, then assistant business editor of the now defunct Today newspaper, was stabbed to death in a fastfood-themed bar when he refused to give up his cell phone to snatchers while he was on his way home after a late-night coverage in Makati. He was 39.

He is survived by his parents, Luis Villanueva and Pilar del Castillo, and brothers and sisters Miguel, Fuerto, Carolina, Margie, Santi, Mariana, Bienvenid Sindro.

GMA won't need begging bowl to get her pork, says Belmonte

From page A1

the pork barrel under an Aquino administration?

If congressman-elect Feliciano Belmonte becomes House Speaker, Ms Arroyo will not have to go to-bow begging bowl in hand.

Belmonte, who is being fielded in the speakership race by the Liberal Party of outgoing president Benigno Aquino III, said he will be fair in the distribution of pork, even with members of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD of Ms Arroyo, which will now be in opposition.

"We will try to treat everyone with fairness. It will not be that some will get hungry while others have more than they need," Belmonte said in an interview.

"That was my style when I was Speaker and mayor of Quezon City. I treated everybody fairly and with dignity. We don't have put anyone on the defensive," said Belmonte, who was House Speaker briefly in 2001.

Most vengeful use

Belmonte's stated policy on the pork barrel will be a marked departure from that prevailing in the Arroyo administration which, opposition lawmakers claimed, depleted those of their pork.

"It was during the Arroyo administration that (they really) pushed the use of the pork barrel to its most vengeful," said LP campaign manager Florencio Abad, a former finance congressman.

"If in the final tally I and Batasan administration we get the maximum wage, during the Arroyo administration, even the 'minimum wage' was removed," said Abad.

Abad said his wife, Henedina, did not run for the lone congressional district of Batanes in 2007 because her constituents complained that her being in the opposition was making the province in terms of the basic services that it did not get.

Mike the wife signed the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo, so to Batanes received no help from the Palace. She did not run in 2007 because our people were saying 'You keep on fighting (Malacañang) but we are the ones being hit," Abad said.

Legislators sponsor their-usefulness by the amount of projects they bring to their constituents through the pork barrel, an appropriation in the national budget that grants P70 million for each member of the House and P500 million for every senator to use for their pet projects.

President's power clipped

The pork barrel system has been much criticized for the patronage and graft opportunities it gives senators and congressmen, though in its present version as to the Party-list representatives, Ambassador Paisil (PDP), it is governed by stringent pronouncement, bidding and audit rules.

A new provision in the 2011 budget bars the chief executive from recommending the pork barrel without the consent of Congress, giving the House Speaker, in particular, immense power over the pork.

This has led to apprehensions that a future President Aquino may not have enough influence in Congress to get his candidacies for the-female presidency and House speakership elected, and thus lose his ability to advance his legislative agenda.

Confidently, it has led to fears that Congresswoman Macapagal-Arroyo, if she chooses to run for and is elected House Speaker, would again have control of the key distribution system of state funds.

Ms Arroyo will go to the House after her term expires next June 30, having been a congressional seat in her Pampanga home province. Many of her party mates have urged her to stand for the speakership but she has so far refused.

No-factionalism

Belmonte said he was hoping that an Aquino administration would deal directly with the House leadership and not cultivate a faction in the House that would have direct access to the Palace.

"Let's just say I would like the President to work through the established leadership of the House. We don't want to have factions inside that can go directly to the President to bargain. I don't think that's a very good model," he said.

"I'd like to ask the President himself that, if possible, if there is a problem, he would give it to us. We'll try to work it out, and not them (Malacañang) having to call the congressmen concerned and bargain with them. That's one of the things I would like to do," he said.

EX-FUTURE ALLIES President Arroyo and Quezon City Mayor and Congressman-elect Sonny Belmonte, here seen at the 61st Philippine Charities Ball 2010 State Convention at the Araneta Coliseum on Friday. Belmonte, who is the Liberal Party's pick for Speaker of the House, says Rep. Gloria Arroyo will not go begging for her share of the pork if he is elected House leader.

NEWS

Iconic yellow ribbon—why it keeps waving

By Fe Zamora

NEXT TO 'RE: YELLOW BALLS'

Eh, the "yellow ribbon" car sticker has become the second most visible symbol of presumptive President-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III's campaign, thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers andiamo value craft (butterflies, what else, but the "Yellow Ribbon Movement (YRM)."

"Ninoy (Noynoy's father, the martyred senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.) had his yellow ribbons; Cory (his mother, former President Corazon Aquino) also had hers. Why not yellow ribbons for Noynoy?" said Margie Juico, who served as appointments secretary of the Aquino administration in 1986-1992.

The yellow ribbon campaign was first introduced on Aug. 21, 1983 as a way of welcoming opposition leader Ninoy Aquino home after three years of self-exile in the United States. He relatives and supporters had tied the ribbons to trees and posts near the Manila International Airport, taking their cue from the song "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree."

But Ninoy was killed by an assassin's bullet as he was being escorted off the plane. His murder triggered an outrage that led to the ouster of dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a "people power" revolt that raised yellow banners and ribbons, and swept Ninoy's widow Cory Aquino to power in February 1986.

Last August, when the popular former president passed away, an unexpected and widespread display of yellow ribbons marked her wake and funeral in remembrance of her struggle to bring democracy back to the country.

Many took this as a reminder that the spirit of "people power" had not died.

When her son, Noynoy, announced his decision to "continue the fight" and run for president in September, yellow ribbons were used to adorn the historic Club Filipino where he made the announcement.

Symbol of legacy

Juico said some people in the campaign "did not quite agree" with the idea of the yellow ribbon campaign but she insisted. The young Aquino was going to continue the legacy of his parents. "The yellow ribbon is a symbol of that legacy. You don't need words to explain. The yellow ribbon says it all," Juico said.

At their pre-campaign office at Pure Oxygen along Edsa, Juico called up the members of the late President Aquino's "Hagar Para Foundation" and the wives of the Cabinet members and military and police officials of the Aquino administration.

Among the early birds were Teresa Santos, Nevie Cabochan, Delia Pedrosa and Ros Campillo. Reggie Courtney, a close friend of the late president, also showed up and offered Juico two warehouses of furniture and furnishings.

"Reggie told me to take a look and choose, and she would have the furniture re-upholstered," Juico said. In a few weeks, the office was furnished with yellow couches, yellow cabinets and even yellow trash cans. Juico also ordered rolls of yellow ribbons which the early volunteers cut to pieces to be used on pants and vests.

"Pinoy joes spread around, and soon, rolls of yellow ribbons arrived at the office. Just when we had run out of supplies, somebody would come in bringing just what we needed. It was like the multiplication of bread," said Juico, referring to the biblical story of how Jesus multiplied loaves and fishes to feed the hungry.

Car stickers everywhere

Nonstop donated bales of yellow textile which Juico sent out to be sewn into T-shirts. There also came reams of yellow sticker paper, on which they printed the very popular yellow ribbon car stickers.

Initially, the car stickers came in one size, which the elder volunteers painstakingly cut out from the legal size yellow sheet and sent out to younger volunteers who distributed the stickers to designated areas, such as Quezon City for a clean-up drive. "We scrubbed walls to remove the posters," she said.

Next stop was Manila, which is distributing some 2,500 bags packed with noodles, sugar and coffee which were donated to the YRM during the campaign period.

Last Friday, the YRM had their first general assembly to map out their next activities.

During the meeting, one volunteer stood up to express what the YRM was all about. "If you are driving a vehicle with a yellow ribbon sticker, please remember not to cut lanes. Don't go over road rage. The yellow ribbon sticker is a symbol of good governance that we all want. This should start with us."

THE MOST visible symbol of the campaign of presumptive President-elect Sen. Benigno Aquino III—the yellow ribbon—is not resting just yet. The yellow ribbon will become the symbol of good governance in the Aquino administration, according to the Yellow Ribbon Movement of (from left) Winnie Ty, Ditas Lorenzo, Daddy Hacienda, Polly Aquino and Jenny Juico.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kaalaman Ayusan Koming Gusto mo sa Manila University.

Juico said someone sent her "big" yellow ribbon car stickers for trucks and SUVs. She also had printed smaller ones for bicycles and motorcycles. There were even concealed yellow stickers for cell phones.

By the start of the official campaign period in February, the YRM was a battalion of women in yellow shirts and pants, with marching yellow handbands, yellow earrings, yellow wristwatches, yellow ladies IDs and yellow shoes. In one instance was a pile of yellow bags and yellow umbrellas dropped on the lookout of their chairs were yellow-and-white shawls.

From the four sales spree chain October afternoons netting yellow ribbons, the YRM had by then expanded to some 400 volunteers from Laguna, Cavite, Batangas and Bulacan. Juico said the volunteers put up "yellow ribbon stations" where the ribbons were made available to the public.

Projects also mushroomed the YRM, said Juico. Never to be outdone was a virtue every Thursday in time, the YRM passed 2,000 Hail Mary's daily for it clean and honest election, and the safety of their candidate Noynoy Aquino and his running mate Mar Roxas.

A few days after the election, with their adrenaline still high, the YRM went to areas in Quezon City for a clean-up drive. "We scrubbed walls to remove the posters," she said.

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Pastor Q: Where did our votes for Gibo go?

PASTOR Apollo Quiboloy, shown in this file photo with his choice for president, administration bet Gilbert Teodoro, says he is baffled by Teodoro's disappointing fourth-place finish and is inclined to believe the allegations of poll fraud by the ousted veteran. "Isuka lang."

By Jeffrey H. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—PASTOR Apollo Quiboloy said yesterday he was at a loss as to how his "anointed one" lost the election and believed there may be something to the revelation of electronic cheating made by the ousted whistleblower dubbed "Sexbomb."

Quiboloy, leader of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, The Name Above Every Name religious movement, admitted he was baffled by administration candidate Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro's loss.

Teodoro was the candidate he and his flock told him to support, and Quiboloy, who is considered the "appointed son" of God by his followers.

"We ourselves are baffled," he told journalists during a break in a two-planning activity he spearheaded in Davao city Wednesday here on Friday.

Quiboloy's movement claims to have at least four million members registered as voters.

Teodoro garnered only three million votes.

"What happened to our votes? Where did our votes go? The kingdom citizens voted solidly for Teodoro and now we are only ask where did these votes go?" Quiboloy said.

He said Teodoro's votes appeared to have been programmed to reach only three million.

"At the start of the counting, I was told that Gibo already had 3.2 million votes. It was at 2 a.m. [of May 10]...It stopped there. And that evening, there was no significant change at all while the votes of the other candidates were shooting up," he said.

He admitted he was disheartened, adding, "I had apprehensions before the elections."

Extra PCOS machines?

"I told many people about this—what if there are extra PCOS (precinct count optical scan) machines and cards kept somewhere by someone and they transmit doctored results ahead of the official results? And this is what appeared to have happened," Quiboloy said.

He said allegations of electronic cheating must be investigated by the authorities without fear or favor.

Quiboloy said the revelations of whistleblower Robin—also known as Isuka lang—must be examined.

The masked man had sent a video to media alleging electronic fraud but legislators said they could not consider the charges unless the man identified himself and presented evidence.

"I was very hopeful that through the automated elections, we would be able to tell the whole world that we are already a modern nation that knows how to handle elections without fraud. I was very hopeful. And now, I am being asked what I think about the elections and with all these reports of fraud and manipulation, I cannot say the recent elections were clean, honest and credible," Quiboloy said.

The televangelist warned that if Sen. Benigno Aquino III would eventually be proclaimed, the new administration's will suffer severely.

"If we have a president, whose votes in the counting is being questioned, this will create more wounds among Filipinos. We have to move on as a nation and if a president's legitimacy is being questioned, that might just be impossible," Quiboloy said.

He said the Comelec should offer a credible and acceptable explanation.

But he said he would support Aquino once he is proclaimed president.

"I am praying that all is well for the nation. And that Noynoy will become a good leader. And if he is proclaimed, I will fully behind him. He needs support. And I found that he is not vindictive. He, too, is grounded," Quiboloy said.

Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Ulanday

A step into Biblical times

Bible museum offers journey

By Jeannette I. Andrade

MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, A Christian family will have at least one Bible at home. But what is considered as among the greatest literary works of all time often ends up unread and collecting dust on a shelf, particularly in an age that has set aside books for the Net.

With this in mind, the Philippine Bible Society (PBS) has opened a museum aimed at enticing up people's interest on the Christians holy book to help them see it in a new light.

The PBS says the Bible Museum as the "best means by which people could know the contents of the Bible" through audio and visual presentations, detailing the journey of the sacred scriptures and the various highlights of the book.

Estrella del Corro, a translation consultant of the United Bible Societies, told the Inquirer that the idea of setting up a Bible Museum first came up in 2000.

Less readers

"People do not like to read anymore," she said. "The museum will offer sights and sounds they can enjoy. They can enter the museum for the study of the Bible."

Del Corro added, "Not everyone wants to learn in a structured way or in a controlled environment like a seminary."

"The museum offers a lot of information about the Bible, the interesting and enjoyable parts of the Bible. This would be a learning experience especially for children," Del Corro revealed, adding, "Children are very important. We want the book to form part of their formation."

"It would be a fresh start for adults in seeing the Bible in a new light," she smiled.

Del Corro, who has a doctorate in Biblical studies and linguistics, has been involved in the translation of the Bible in the vernacular for 23 years.

Faithfulness to the text

She disclosed that the shortest period for a translation project is six years and the primary rule was "not to get lost in translation."

"We have set standards in translations like faithfulness to the Hebrew and Greek text, comprehensibility, and avoiding doctrinal comment," the translation consultant said. She emphasized that the PBS is very particular with faithfulness to the text and expressed hope that the Bible museum would be able to communicate that value.

The Bible Museum is at the second floor of the Philippine Bible Society building at 860 Lih Avenue in Manila, just across the Ateneo High School and the Manila Police District (MPD) headquarters.

Upon entering, a visitor would get the impression of traveling through time and

A step into Biblical times

Frontpage #2!

reading up in one of the eleven Quonsun tents. The tents, located in the ancient settlement of Khirbet Qumeran, now in the West Bank, are where the so-called "dead sea scrolls" were discovered between 1947 and 1956.

The dead sea scrolls are a collection of 900 documents, including texts of the Hebrew Bible, most of which have been used as reference for biblical translations and reproductions.

The cave serves as the entrance to the biblical collection, containing the oldest (the smallest in palm sized book), and the biggest Bibles ever published through the years.

The oldest Bible in the collections is a King James English Bible published in 1816. A model of of the Tabernacle and small figures of temple priests hearing the Ark of the Covenant, containing the tablets where the Ten Commandments are inscribed, sits in the middle of the gallery to offer a bird's eye view of how religious ceremonies were held in biblical times.

The Bible considers a life-size figure of St. Basil resting on papyrus a bit among museum pictures, who usually take pictures with him.

The PBS is currently expanding its museum after its soft launch on April 17 and is eyeing to include interactive modules for children, including couples' sessions, storytelling, and seminars.

Dressing up the part

PBS accommodation officer Hazel Alvis told the Inquirer that in the coming summer, children can dress up as biblical characters.

She admitted that getting people to again read the Bible was a challenge for the PBS. "Every department of the PBS is working on this and is constantly reviewing its content up with ideas," she said.

Apart from the use of formal language in biblical translation, the PBS has come up with a Bible comics, the E-Bible, and has produced 12th swimming 16 translations of the sacred scriptures.

Alvis pointed out that the PBS has a website which features portions of the bible and where people can post questions and ask for help in understanding the Bible.

The PBS encourages visit groups to the museum by calling people to check out the PBS website www.bible.org.ph or calling 8261777, local 626, during office hours from Monday to Saturday.

A LIFE-SIZE statues of St. Paul shows people how he produced his letters hung before the lighting.

A VISITOR reads one of the huge informational displays at the Bible museum.

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE CHERRY

Homeowner trapped inside burning house in Fairview

AUTHORITIES FOUND THE REMAINS OF a man who was trapped inside his burning home past midnight yesterday in Fairview, Quezon City.

Bureau investigator SPO2 Fortunato Aldo identified the victim as Jesus Tibay, 47, of Block 6 corner Cattail Streets in Nice Subdivi.

Aldo said it was apparent that Tibay had been overwhelmed by smoke which prevented him from escaping the three-storey house when it caught fire at 12:10 a.m.

Initial investigation showed that the blaze started in the dining area but the exact cause of the fire was still being determined.

Firefighters were able to place the blaze under control at 12:19 a.m. and declared it totally extinguished 1:12 a.m.

Aldo estimated the damage to property at P1.5 million.

Tibay's charred body was found by firefighters during mopping up operations.

Julie M. Aurelio

Electricity payment scam uncovered

Suspect caught with rubber checks

MANILA ELECTRIC COMPANY (Meralco) employees are believed to have uncovered a scam which aims to victimize consumers seeking to save on huge electricity bill payments.

The discovery came with the arrest on Friday of Arnel Jorge, 29, who was caught while trying to pay almost P1 million worth of Meralco bills using checks with insufficient funds.

Investigator PO2 Roland Belgica of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit identified the arrested suspect as Arnel Jorge, 29, of 68 Sitio Caritas Street, Quezon City.

Belgica said Jorge, who has been charged with estafa before the Quezon City Prosecutors Office, was caught with a set of checks that had already been used in defrauding Meralco.

According to investigators, Jorge went to the Meralco Commonwealth Business Center at Capitol State II in Batasan Hills on Friday and tried to pay P727,000 in behalf of a certain Rolando de Leon and an Ondre Mandaog as part of an installment payment agreement.

Police said Jorge wrote two checks with the amounts of P493,000 and P234,000 using the account of a certain Jun Chan Cui.

A branch employee, Josephat Maria Lozano, told police that she became suspicious of the transaction Jorge was trying to make and had him held at the office until police arrived.

Lozano noted that on May 5 at the Sikatuna branch along Espana, Manila, Union Bank checks under the name "Jun Chan Cui" were also used as payment but these bounced.

"We suspect that our arrested suspect is a member of a syndicate that offers its services to victims who want to pay less in their electricity bills," Belgica said.

Belgica explained that the syndicate would seek out Meralco customers with huge bills and offer to help them at a discount.

The syndicate would then pay for the bills using checks from unfunded or closed accounts.

Obtaining the receipts from Meralco, the syndicate would then go back to the unsuspecting customers, who are made to pay a lesser amount.

The customers are made to believe that their bills had been settled only to be surprised later that the payments were made using bouncing checks. Julie M. Aurelio

Dismissed MMDA aides in extort try

THREE TRAFFIC ENFORCERS, TWO OF them already dismissed from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), were arrested on Friday in Quezon City after they allegedly tried to extort money from a truck driver.

The two dismissed MMDA enforcers were identified as Danilo Padilla, 40, of Calderon City and Rudy Madrid, 59, of Quezon City.

Also arrested was Jeremias Bonalbo, 44, a traffic enforcer of the Quezon City Department of Public Order and Safety.

Quezon City Police District director Chief Supt. Benjamin Alunsina said the three were facing charges of robbery-extortion, with Padilla and Madrid also getting slated for usurpation of authority.

The QCPD's Police Intelligence Operation Unit arrested the trio after a truck driver, Jory Lanot, 29, complained that they were trying to collect money from him.

DPIOU head Supt. Marceliino Bolisay said his men, in coordination with the MMDA, then conducted an entrapment operation against the three men at about 11:45 p.m. Friday.

Authorities found the three men in the vicinity of the Edsa Bridgetown overpass where they were arrested after taking P500 in marked money.

Marcelo said a check with the MMDA revealed that Padilla and Madrid were earlier dismissed because of alleged illegal activities during sidewalk clearing operations.

Padilla and Madrid will be charged with violating article 294 of the Revised Penal Code or robbery-extortion and usurpation, while Bonalbo will face a case of robbery. Julie M. Aurelio

METROBRIEFS

Avoid Roxas Boulevard this morning

MANILA traffic authorities are advising motorists to avoid Roxas Boulevard this morning because of a two-km. Sept. Nuddy Cay-Inaugural the Manila Police District-Traffic Enforcement Unit (MPD-TEU) said yesterday that the southbound lane of Roxas Boulevard from T.M. Kalaw up to C. Duarte will be closed starting 5 a.m. to allow the way for the Sea Wig Coffee Bay Run. The event is slated to start at 6 a.m. and end at 9 a.m., the MPD-TEU said. Elmo S. Santos

Gun ban nets 2 men, boy in QC

THREE persons were arrested by the Quezon City Police District for violating the ongoing election gun ban. SOPE director Chief Supt. Benjamin Alunsina identified those arrested as Renjie Agustin, 21, of Barangay Old, Joel Ramirez, 20, of Tandang Sora, QC, and a 16-year-old boy who was arrested with Agustin. Manila said Agustin and the boy were arrested Saturday along West Avenue. The boy yielded a 45-cal. pistol. Sanchez was nabbed along Kamuning Avenue. A tattoo and a shotgun owning were found on him. Julie M. Aurelio

Flames gobble up animal feed in Manila fire

A 2 BY 2 still underconstruction single room on animal feeds warehouse in Manila yesterday morning. Fire Officer 2 Lenin Hernandez of the Manila Fire Bureau said the five-hour blaze hit Simons Enterprises at 2403 Lakandula Street, Barrio Sta. Mesa, at 6:26 a.m. It was declared by a certain Simon Chua. The fire was declared under control at 1:00 a.m. and was put out at 11:30 a.m. Estimated losses to property was at P5.3 million. Elmo S. Santos

Six-wheeler holds up traffic on NLEX

A SIX-WHEELER truck fell on its side near the Malolos Exit in Bulacan and blocked three of the four lanes of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) at about 10:40 a.m. yesterday, causing a traffic snarl for nearly an hour. According to the NLEX Traffic Control Room, the driver of the 6W truck with license plate TSS-730 lost control of the wheel, which caused it to fall sideways. NLEX investigators said the truck was carrying more than one ton of steel coils, which was apparently too much for the truck to handle. No one was hurt in the mishap. Edwin T. Rotinthal

Police patrol works in Tondo

PATROLLING policemen killed a suspected robber after the suspect and two of his companions reportedly engaged the lawmen in a gunfight along Jose Abad Santos Avenue in Tondo, Manila, yesterday morning. The slain suspect was subsequently identified or believed to be a member of the Tapos-Tapos Syndrak Gang because of his tattoo markings. His two companions managed to flee, police said. NEB

"I AM HERE SOME 3,000 PEOPLE teaching the country every day. They are not apolitically. They have taken matters into their own hands. They want change and they use it with the [only] tools."
KIKO PANGILINAN, May 2010

GLOBAL Pinoy
Editor Gerry Lirio
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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Warm relationship in a cold, foreign land

By Margaux C. Ortiz
Contributor

WHEN MARELOU Borga Svensson first came to the bustling tourist town of Strömstad in Sweden's three years ago, she hardly felt like a tourist at all.

"It was cold and dark," 29-year-old Marilou said of the day she first got out of the airport. It was, after all, the height of winter when she arrived on Dec. 23, 2006 in the Scandinavian country.

Marilou, who grew up in Marcilona, Southern Leyte, had been working as an tourism officer assistant in the Philippines when a common friend introduced her to Ove Svensson, a Swedish chef.

The two fell in love and got married. Marilou said it was an easy decision to move to Sweden to be with her husband and start a family there.

It was a good thing that her first few days in Sweden were spent experiencing new things, such as a Scandinavian-style Christmas complete with Santa and snow.

"It was unforgettable," Marilou said of her first Christmas Eve in Sweden. She recalled sitting with her husband's family when a man dressed as Santa looked exactly like Santa Claus suddenly knocked on the glass window.

"Santa" then came inside the house, acting like the real jolly Santa Nicholas. While her two brothers-in-law were jumping for joy, Marilou speechlessly looked at him.

"I was amazed," she said. "I could not believe that there really is a Santa Claus."

Trying to entertain herself, Marilou subsequently to her husband asked him if the Santa Claus in front of her was real. "Ove just laughed very hard at me," she said, chuckling.

First snow

Her first encounters with snow was equally unforgettable. She remembered driving to school when it first snowed that winter.

Marilou said she did not want to start, so—super shots seeing snow for the first time and pretended that it "was just snow."

"But when I came home, doon [ito na], tuloy-tuloy na [and boiling it with all my heart. I even roasted a hole," she laughed.

She also recalled planning horse and telling her family that it was freezing. Her nephew excitedly asked her, "Is the snow really there on your roof? Is it falling from the sky?"

The blues

However, as for any migrant Filipina, Marilou soon experienced the blues that come with homesickness and uncertainty. It was when she was waiting to visit for a bus to school that she realized how lonely and scared she felt in a foreign land.

"I did not know if there, but in Sweden, buses have a time table and do not stop at every bus stop," she said, adding that on that particular day, the buses just drove by her.

Marilou, who then did not have a cell phone to call her husband at work, just stood at the cold bus stop and cried. Fortunately, a kindhearted neighbor passed by and volunteered to drive her to school.

But she has since adjusted. After all, living in a busy tourist town has its perks.

"Strömstad is very famous in nearby Norway," Marilou explained, pointing out that Strömstad is located in Västra Götaland County near the Norwegian border.

Tourist town

Marilou, who now works as a breakfast hostess in a hotel, said Norwegians make up 85 percent of the country population in Strömstad, especially in the summer.

She added that the Norwegians who visit Strömstad with their wagons and boats do not only buy goods but also preparation and houses in the tourist town.

"It is quite expensive to live here since Norwegians have a higher value for their money. They can afford to buy things that Swedish people consider expensive," she said.

Filipinos in Strömstad are very few, according to Marilou, running about 30. Most of them married Swedes, she said, adding that Filipinos because of the language barrier.

"Swedish is a difficult language to learn. It requires hard work to learn the correct pronunciation by listening to the Swedish people speak it and trying to speak the words yourself," she said.

Complex language

Marilou gave as an example the word *sjuksköterska*, which means registered nurse. It is actually pronounced as "*hukshörnska*," she said.

Because of her expected difficulty with the complex Scandinavian language, the 29-year-old initially watched pots and dressed loved rooms while completing her six-month Swedish for immigrants course.

Marilou had to make English her first language and then learn her English words into Swedish in class. She subtract a Cebuano-Swedish or Swedish-Cebuano dictionary that would have made life simpler for her, she said.

However, another challenge got in her way where she got pregnant with her now two-year-old son Antonio.

"I was all my Swedish when I stayed at home during my pregnancy and when I went home to the Philippines for four months after giving birth," Marilou said.

Hotel breakfast hostess

It was when she started working again that she improved her confidence in speaking the language and becoming fluent in it.

She is now taking elementary level Swedish (Svenska Grund) and university level English at the Strömstad Learning Center.

Home-cooking pays. Marilou graduated to her present job as a hotel breakfast hostess while snacking oven with her husband Ove at the kitchen (he does the cooking, she does the plating).

Marilou is quick to describe her typical day in Sweden as "very busy." On a work day, she wakes up at 4:15 in the morning, goes to work, and comes home around 12 noon.

She then does her school homework and then picks up her son from daycare. Preparing for dinner, watching a little television after eating, and putting a sleepy Antonio to bed are next on her agenda.

Sometimes, she has to go back to work in the evening.

To cope with the weekend, Marilou looks forward to a beloved Swedish tradition—*fika* with her husband at the end of the day and with her workmates and friends on their days off.

Fika, which refers to a special break time when people drink coffee with snacks, is central to Swedish culture," she explained.

More than a simple break from work, *fika* is treated as an essential social gathering where people talk about the weather, news and daily events.

"*Fika* is like drinking coffee and making chika *chika*," she said, adding that cookies, soft bread like muffin and cakes, chocolate and cinnamon rolls are usually enjoyed with coffee during *fika*.

For the Svensson couple, *fika* is at 9 p.m. when Ove comes home from work and Marilou prepares coffee and cookies for him. They then talk about how the day has been for them.

Food culture

Like all overseas Filipinos, Marilou had to adjust to the Swedish culture, especially their food. The Swedish staple food is potato, rice rice.

Mashed potato with Swedish meatballs or sausage, fingerlings' jam and pickled cucumber and pasta with canned cream sauce are common Swedish dishes—a far cry from Philippine stewed (pinakuluan), fry (prito) and grilled (ihaw) and Visayan dishes (sinuglaw na kamuyagay o ginisa sahalam ug tinap-tinang) recipes she encourages ay cannot top with pasta and grilled fish), which Marilou misses so much.

To restore her toilet on Filipino food culture, Marilou always makes sure that tomatoes and rice.

"Aside from our food, I also teach him important Filipino values such as the Filipino way of respecting our elders," she said, explaining that she felt uncomfortable when the first time to lowest and heard his nephews and nieces call Ove by his first name.

She said that relatives and workers do not call their teachers and bosses sir or ma'am, but by their first names as well.

Walking everywhere

Despite the many differences with her own culture, Marilou has also learned to love the Swedish ways. One of this is their penchant for walking everywhere.

"To my hometown, we always like to ride a pedicab or a tricycle even if walking toward our destination would only take 30 minutes," she said.

Marilou remembered how a tricycle driver followed her husband around when he went to the Philippines, asking him if he did not want to take a ride.

She now walks to work (it is 30 minutes) and commutes to the farthest things from her mind.

"After all, I have to work and save as much as possible so we can go home to the Philippines regularly and build our own house [soon]," she said.

Aside from her present job, Marilou will conclude on yet another challenge as a trained chef in a Thai restaurant in Strömstad.

This way, Marilou still keeps in touch with her warm Asian culture in a cold, foreign land.

STRANGERS IN LOVE: Swedish-Ove Svensson flew to Southern Leyte, saw and fell in love with Marilou Borga. He married her, took her and their son Antonio to Port of Pjällbacka and Strömstad (left), both in Sweden, assuring Marilou she would never be alone and unhappy even if she's miles away from home.

Once upon a gentle summer in Rizal

By Edna Bangan-Zaldua
Contributor

NEW JERSEY—SOUTHERN SOURTEEN is definitely a long-ago past. It is a term we too many humans today can personally relate to or remember. But for Leonora "Tarang" Tuason, that year is most significant. It opens the first page of the storybook of his life.

Born on Nov. 6, 1914 to Trinidad Mendoza, Lolo Tarang has come a long way. He has reached the ripe age of 95, has lived in San Diego, California since 1979, had gotten married earlier (the second being to a 24-year-old woman when he was 62), has retired and is now a pensionado, and is basking in the love and admiration of an ever-widening family circle.

With apparent thankfulness for how his life turned out to be, Lolo Tarang does not hesitate to share his oral autobiography with anyone who is inclined to listen. He then sets audiences in, of course, his family. Each member is aware that interviewer in the tapestry of Lolo Tarang's life are pictures and designs of their own, energies live, and so they listen with rapt attention, watching out for the details that touch them in a really personal way keeping their eyes on the verbal dots that connect their present to their past.

"I was 24 when I married my first wife, Upgie Giron," he begins in his pure Tagalog accent. "We had two children during the Japanese occupation. More months in level means a burden time finding enough food. So we evacuated for several days and nights we traversed on foot, stopping only to rest and do our necessities. We pushed a cart with some belongings in it. Sometimes, we made the children ride in, too. We were headed for Talavera in Nueva Ecija because I had relatives there." At this point, someone interrupts and asks: "Did you see any Japanese soldiers along the way?" "No, we headed late to there. They found us and inspected our belongings. It was scary, even if we were not hiding anything."

Jack of all trades

From his vast experiences, Lolo Tarang developed a lot of practical skills. He variously became a gardener, a carpenter and a furniture-maker. That was how he supported his family. That was how he later launched a better life for them when the war was over.

Because he could do many things with his hands, he became known as a jack of all trades. People trusted him to do carpentry and electrical work for them. His family was growing at baby-boomer pace. He had to work double-time to earn more.

Again, he relied on the dexterity of his hands. He ventured into the sweaty town of Marikina where shoe-making was a promising industry. Before long, he put up his own small factory in Calumpang and named it Daddy's Footwear. His wife and children assisted him in the business. When Marikina bagged the limelight as the shoe capital of the Philippines, Daddy's Footwear was the fairly well-oiled money machine of Lolo Tarang's big family.

Flying to America

His children all were in school and forged their own destiny. Their father's example gave them the impetus. One looked beyond the Philippine horizon and enlisted in the US Navy. He opened the door for Lolo Tarang to come to America and later petitioned for his other children. Everyone who immigrated chose to settle in San Diego where they one still stay close together as a family with Lolo Tarang at the helm.

His young second wife, Rivlen, and their two daughters have also joined the caravan. They are his reliable source of emotional security and support in his old age.

They keep his mind alert by making him tell and re-tell his stories of long bygone days. They know his favorite summer tales by heart. Fishing in the river, their names of the Marikina River, outings and picnics in the sitting dog or riverbanks of Binangonan, trekking to Antipolo for the fiesta, the birds and the bees.

All these memories make Lolo Tarang smile in pleasant reverie. But his biggest happiness comes from his pride in the achievements of his 10 children, 27 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren who have all gone ahead to find their own places under the sun and carve their own niches in the world. He has three great-great grandchildren who are yet too small for big plans but whose parents coax from the toothless, hard-working, indomitable Leonora Tarang's work ethic. The family ages will no doubt continue to fire the imagination and fuel the resolve of this future generation to keep alive the time-tested ideals of the Filipino to conserve across the Pacific.

LOLO TATANG: We were taking in the star, clear waters of Marikina Binangonan shown that win the fly.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quocco

India plane crashes; 158 dead

NEW DELHI—AN AIR India Express plane trying to land in the rain at a tricky hilltop airport in southern India overshot the runway, crashed and burst into flames at dawn Saturday, killing 158 people, officials said. At least eight survived.

FIREFIGHTERS try to extinguish the flames around the site of an Air India plane that crashed in Mangalore, southern India, on May 22. —AP

Dense black smoke billowed from the Boeing 737-800 aircraft surrounded by flames just seconds Mangalore's Bajpe airport in a hilly area with thick grass and trees.

Firefighters sprayed water on the plane...which was traveling from Dubai—as others struggled to find survivors. An Associated Press photo showed two rescuers running up a hill carrying a girl who was about 7 years old and covered in foam to wishing medics. The child was later treated for severe burns in a Mangalore hospital.

Other rescue workers pulled out scores of burned bodies from the blackened tangle of aircraft cabins, twisted metal, charred trees and mud in the crash site. Many of the dead were still strapped to their seats, their bodies burned beyond recognition.

Relatives of the victims, who had come to the airport to meet them, were seen weeping near the wreckage.

"The plane shook with vibrations and split into two," a survivor named Pradeep told Oneindia television. He said the plane's initial touchdown appeared smooth at first, but then he started about 15 seconds later.

Pradeep, who was only one among, jumped out of the aircraft with four others into a pit, he said.

The plane had a small fire at first, but then a large explosion set off a bigger blaze, said Pradeep, who injured his hand and suffered burns to that foot.

The plane was carrying 160 passengers and six crew members, Air India official Jitendra Bhargava said.

"This is a major calamity," SM. Acharya, home minister for the state of Karnataka, told CNN-IBN.

By Saturday afternoon, rescuers had pulled 80 bodies from the wreckage, Bhargava said. Eight survivors also had been rescued and were being treated in local hospitals, said Anup Srivastava, another official with the Democratically struggling Indian national carrier.

Air India runs cheap flights under the Air India Express banner to Dubai and other Middle East destinations where millions of Indian expatriate workers are employed.

The crash could be the deadliest in India since the November 1996 midair collision between a Saudi airliner and a Kazakh cargo plane near New Delhi that killed 349 people.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressed condolences and promised compensation for the families of the victims. Boeing said in a statement it was sending a team to provide technical aid to the government's crash investigation.

The crash took place about 6 a.m. when the plane went too long at Bajpe, about 30 kilometers outside of Mangalore, and overshot the runway, Bhargava said.

Some of villagers scrambled over the hilly terrain to reach the wreckage, and began aiding in the rescue operation. Permission since over the past two days caused low visibility in the area, officials said.

Abdul Razzaq, a survivor, told CNN-IBN he jumped out of the wrecked plane and then pulled out two other passengers. AP

Thai Red Shirts return to heartland in disarray

CHIANG MAI, THAILAND—After a military offensive that crushed antigovernment tactics in Bangkok, angry "Red Shirts" are returning to their northern heartland in disarray, with their leaders in custody or hiding.

Hundreds of Reds poured off trains in Thailand's second largest city Chiang Mai in a hero's welcome after staging rolling demonstrations that paralyzed parts of the capital and left 85 dead and 1,800 injured since March.

"I lived in Bangkok for two months. My heart still wants to carry on this fight. This pull back for me is just temporary," said Wirach, a 43-year-old musician.

The Red Shirt military strategist, a renegade general known as Seh Daeng, was shot in the head by a sniper days before an overwhelming offensive on Wednesday that forced the movement's top leaders to go underside.

"The Red Shirt does not have leaders now. I do not know what to do. The police have caught our leaders. Some have escaped to Laos, some to Burma, who gave only his first name. "But now I have no plans to go back to Bangkok."

Wirach echoed the fears of political analysts when he said he believed the shootings of his comrades to several clashes with security forces would "spark a civil war in Thailand."

"The crisis will not end now. The Red Shirt people may adopt other strategies but at the moment we do not have a leader or a plan. We do not have a silver shin," he said.

Thailand is deeply split between the Reds, mainly urban and rural poor who are demanding the ouster of a government they overthrew in an undemocratic, and rival pro-establishment "Yellow Shirts" who represent the nation's elites.

A night-time curfew is in place until Sunday in the capital as well as the Reds' heartland in the rural north and northeast, amid fears the trouble could spread. Nine provincial halls have already been torched.

"They have gone home with that sense of resentment, that bitterness and it will not end there," said Paul Chambers,political expert from the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore.

"So it will be no surprise if we hear of more violent clashes across the country, especially the north and northeast, because many people do not have faith in the election process, so they turn to violent alternatives."

Wirin said that having large numbers of Reds, with no hope and nothing to lose, roaming around without a leadership was a major problem for Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. AFP

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S. Korea, US say they will make N. Korea pay

SEOUL—THE UNITED STATES and South Korea vowed on Friday to make North Korea pay the price for torpedoing a warship in March, as international anger grew over the attack which claimed 46 lives.

In Tokyo, visiting US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said it was important to send a strong message to North Korea that provocative actions have consequences.

Seoul Defense Minister Kim Tae-Young, a day after investigators exposed overwhelming evidence that a North Korean submarine sank the Seoul warship Cheonan, said: "North Korea surpassed the limits and, for such an act, we will make it pay."

At the start of an Asian tour that later Friday took her to Shanghai, ahead of planned stops in Beijing and Seoul, Clinton said she and Japan's Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada agreed the North must end its belligerent behavior toward neighbors.

"We cannot allow this attack to go unanswered by the international community," she said, adding she looks forward to "intensive consultations in China."

The attack on the Cheonan near the disputed border with the North on March 26 sparked outrage and grief in South Korea, but Seoul has apparently ruled out any military response for fear of triggering full-scale war.

"This incident is an serious and grave accident that we must be very cautious and prudent in handling it," said President Lee Myung Bak after convening his first National Security Council meeting in almost a year.

Seoul is engaged in heavy diplomacy to win support for its bid to refer Pyongyang to the United Nations Security Council for punishment.

The commando blasts, for the second time in two days, dented investor sentiment and caused Seoul of fdding the evidence. It has threatened "all-out war" in response to any attempt to punish it. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

Pakistan detains 6 over New York plot

ISLAMABAD—The co-owner of a catering company that organized events for the US Embassy is among six men detained by Pakistan for allegedly helping the failed Times Square bombing suspect, a senior Pakistani intelligence official said. In a statement on its website, the US Embassy warned the catering company was suspected of ties to terrorist groups and said American diplomats had been instructed to stop using the firm. Like Faisal Shahzad, the Pakistani-American accused in the failed New York bombing, the six Pakistan detainees were all members of Rain Assembly's urban elite, including several who were educated in the United States. The suspects were part of a loose network motivated by hatred of America and the West. AP

'Father' of Concorde faces suspended jail term

PARIS—French prosecutors called Friday for a two-year suspended jail term for an 80-year-old engineer known as the father of the Concorde, at a trial into a deadly crash of the supersonic jet in 2000. Henri Perrier, who directed the Concorde programme at Aerospatiale, now part of EADS, from 1970 to 1984, is accused of ignoring warning signs from a string of incidents on Concorde planes before the accident outside Paris. Prosecutors also sought a 375,000-euro ($529,000) fine against Continental Airlines, acting with experts who said the Concorde plane crashed because of a strip of metal that fell off a Continental jet that took off just before it. The New York-bound Air France jet smashed into a hotel in a ball of fire just as takeoff from Paris Charles de Gaulle on July 25, 2000, claiming 113 lives and sounding the death knell for commercial supersonic travel. AFP

Bomb attack in northern Iraq kills 30

BAGHDAD—A minivan packed with explosives blew up at a crowded market in Iraq's troubled northern Diyala province on Friday, killing at least 30 people and wounding 80 others, police and officials said. The attack took place near a crowded cloth and shops from the headquarters of a police rapid response unit in the town of Khalis, about 80 km south of Baghdad, police said. The bomb, exploded around sunset when the area was filled with shoppers. Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Cervantes rescues Tams /A27

Sunday SPORTS

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■ Sheena shines in National Open /A31

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Heat holds Fernando to share of lead in Malaysia

TOP PHILIPPINE JET HAIR PHENOMENA, exhausted because of extreme humidity, still managed to salvage a one-under-par 71 on Friday and settle for a share of the lead halfway through the 102nd Malaysian Amateur Golf championship.

After making three birdies in his first 15 holes, the 20-year-old who won the Philippine Amateur champion last year, dropped two shots in his last two that allowed home bet Mohd Faiz Jamil to catch him at 139 at the links-style Desaru Last Country Club course in Malaysia.

"The heat was terrible out there and sometimes that discolores you," Fernando, playing under the banner of the ICTSI-Gamboling program, said via e-mailer/Bigtoo.

Jamil, a member of the Malaysian national training pool, snowballed a 68 using a torrid start to the morning session to tie for the lead with defense champion Lee in the Top 10 list the Philippines took the lead in the team event.

Peter Villaber fired a second straight 71 to be at 142 and share third place with long-time Malaysian national team fixture Gavin Ilyle Green, who also struggled to post a second round 73 after shooting a 69 on Thursday.

Paul Echarren, the former Ayo Golf caddy in Davao who is also in the Cowgirl program, dazed an 80 after shooting a 68 to share the first round lead with Fernando. He is now at 148 and practically out of it all.

Albin Regino and Jessie Balmedina were at 146 after firing a 71 and 72, respectively.

Lorelyn Gotingco was two shots off the ladies division that started play on Friday, firing a 74 to trail former Philippine Ladies' champion Yupaporn Kietsirikpaiboo of Thailand, who matched par. Mitsuru B. Cardilla

Kings trump Aces in Cebu

Realtors take on Texters, face former teammates

By Mitsuru B. Cardilla

CEBU CITY—JEFF MENK DROPPED 23 points and helped key a Rosenguey Gindlen comeback in the third period for a 108-93 victory over Meralco in a PBA Fiesta Conference road game presented by Phoenix Fuel at the Cebu Coliseum here.

The Gin Kings, after wiping out a 12-point deficit at the halfway point of the third, then broke the game's back for an 81-69 with a baseline finish at their hold the Aces to just two points in the 8:32 3:43 to impress to 7-4.

Gindlen's victory, it's clear tonight, kept the Kings well within the hunt for an automatic seat in the Final Four, with the league-leading San Miguel Beermen at 10-1 and the second-running Talk 'N Text Tropang Texters at 8-2.

Alaska lost for the fifth time in 11 games after seeing a two-game winning streak come to a halt. At 6-5, the Aces would need to put together a seasoneth run to seal their ticket.

TALK 'N TEXT'S Harvey Carey (back) will again draw the tough assignment of guarding Sta. Lucia Realty import Anthony Johnson. /PHOTO

CHAMPIONS CUP

Smart Gilas opens bid vs Al-Rayyan five

By Jane Navarro

DOHA—AS TEAMS START STREAMING into the 44-Gharafa Stadium for the opening of the 22nd Fiba Asia Champions Cup, it will become even more apparent if host Smart Gilas Philipinas would be facing a huge deficit in size.

Gilding will be a major concern for Smart Gilas when the 10 debutees start their campaign Sunday against 16-Rayyan of host Qatar in the Asian club championships that features the top clubs in the continent.

"We are seeing every game with taller seven or eight pulses because of size," said Smart Gilas coach Rajko Toroman, whose defensive strategy in the game is anchored chiefly on seven-footer Greg Slaughter and 6-foot-10 Serbian import Milan Vukicevic.

Against Al-Rayyan, Smart Gilas should be tactically intelligent in the drafted area to consider the 270-pound Michael Peg a seven-foot inside specimen from USA.

Peg, who was supposed to try out as Gilas reinforcement last month, will complement Qatar's starting lineup of Omar Abdulrahman Sahrin (6-foot-8), Saeed Erhan Ali (6-7), Mutaz Yaseen (6-9) and NBL standout Greg Winslow (6-2).

"In Dubai, we proved that size is not the most important thing," said Toroman. "Again, we're the smallest team. But we can make up with our hearts."

Smart Gilas finished third in the Dubai international Tournament last January behind Lebanon's Al-Riyadi and champion Bahrain of Iran, the same clubs competing in the two-import meet here.

Toroman said Slaughter has improved dramatically over five months, or since playing in Dubai, while Vukicevic could also explode for Gilas at the right moment.

The Serbian mentor will also rely on Japeth Aguilar (3-8"), Jimmy Baldwin (6-7) and Aldrech Ramos (5-7) in the lines.

Smart Gilas skipper Chris Tiu and co-captain Mark Barroca will keep the backcourt in order along with RJ Jazul, Dylan Ababou, Mac Baracael, Rey Guevarra and Chris Lutz, a US-based dribbler with Filipino roots.

"Hard work is halfway [to] success," said Toroman, who is making an Olympic dot in London's 2012 with Smart Gilas through the Fiba Asia Championship next year.

"Tactical things, discipline, hard work and lots of games are the magic formula for success," he added.

Toroman brought Iran to the 2008 Beijing Olympics using the same framework. It was the first time Iran were in the Olympics after 40 years.

Smart Gilas, which drew a bye Saturday meets the Astana Tigers of Kazakhstan on Monday and defending champion Alsharan Iran on Tuesday before facing Dubai of Iraq to wrap up its Group A assignments on Wednesday.

TOROMAN

SLAUGHTER

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LETHAL players (left photo) are escorted off the floor after the Bataleurs knocked out the Cagayan Valley Lakers in the quarterfinals. Lakers coach Louie Mar (top photo) points to San Beda assistant coach as the subject of his ire. "We talked one minute," Alas told reporters. Carriers denied the accusations. ARNOLD ALMACEN JR.

Cervantes rescues Tams

Forfeiture mars match between Red Lions, Knights

By Mike Bahinia Barrios, Contributor

MEL CERVANTES SAVED A UMHS-winning three-pointer off barefoot Bill Garcia's Kinsky fired for a 62-61 thriller against the National University Bulldogs yesterday in the FIBOO-Flying V Tembusu First Five Invitational Cup at The FIBOO-Flying V Arena in San Juan City.

Mostly overshadowing that pulsating Tamaraw victory was a forfeited match game between Red Lions and Knights, whose benches emptied over an offending opponent in the night cap.

The Red Lions were leading, 33-44, when the game was halted by marshal officials, who decided to forfeit the match in favor of San Beda with the score reset to 20-0 for quotient purposes.

The Bulldogs executed over Garcia, who jumped on center to open Cervantes, who then busted the key with 5-2 ticks remaining to clinch the Tamaraws' fourth win against two losses.

Kevin Rottbol with 21 points while Cervantes, who wasn't in the line-up to start the game, finished with 12 for FEU.

"NB (National) wants to lead the team most of the time, but his last-minute gamble paid off today," said FEU coach Glen Capacio.

The Tamaraws are now tied for the Group B lead with Adamson, which lost to San Sebastian College, 83-76, late Friday.

San Beda was leading by six with 4:16 left in the third when Kevin Alas trying to draw a charge, was whistled for his fifth foul on a Carvo Lanoy breakaway layup.

Lanoy sank his bonus throw for that nine-point lead while Tamaraw coach Louie Alas, Kevin's father, was restraining the call. The elder Alas threw the ball up in the air and most of his anger but was only waived by the officials, igniting a scrimmage protest from the San Beda bench and nearly triggering a free-for-all among players and coaching staff.

San Beda assistant Ed Cordero stepped into the fray and asked that the Lanoy incident be thrown off, but coach Alas said Cordero also threw choice words at him.

"He called me names," said Alas, adding: "I don't know if he was trying to provoke me or get me thrown out."

"He's a liar," Cordero countered. "I did not say those words."

San Beda moved up to 3-1, while the Bulldogs dropped to 1-3.

In the first game, Mapua Institute of Technology leaned on Windy Acosta's 24 points to upset the College of Saint Benilde, 79-71. BOB is report from Jamaican Bay Bedagong.

Bike Festival Asia lures 100 'cyclo-tourists'

By Jasmine W. Paya

SAGADA—A DIFFICULT CHALLENGE rewarded with a grand view.

Over a hundred cyclists pedaled for fun in a scenic 75-kilometer race route at the Bike Festival Asia yesterday that lived off at the Terraces de Punta Prego here to Bontoc.

"The goal is for everyone to have fun, cheers to no competition," said Mark Lapid, the general manager and CEO of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) who also saw action in the mountain bike event.

The race featured both the mountain bike and road races in a bid to promote cyclo-tourism to the country.

"In the future, we want to bring the event in other parts of the country like Baguio and Mindanao," said Merlito Malixi, president of race organizer Leading Events Network Pte Ltd. "We are also looking at inviting foreign riders to join our succeeding events."

The mountain bike trail offered a top view of Benguet's scenic vistas, before challenging the riders with stretches of rough road, while the road race showcased cyclo-cycle sports.

"It was easy all the way except for the last few kilometers going back to Terrazas. It was pretty rough, that uphill in particular was a killer climb," relatively expert Bontoc builder said after completing the road race.

The race rewarded the fastest riders and competitive cyclists with cash prizes and trophies.

Aside from the race, Lapid said the festival is also a way to showcase the province's rich culture and tourism potential.

"We have 70 percent who are [on] inbound and weekend warriors, while 30 percent are hardcore racers," said Valdez.

Lapid said fine boasting and dragon boat races are the other targeted events to promote sports tourism in Shanghai.

The bike festival was the second to host this year after the 4th it was featuring the Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway race more last October.

SPORTSWATCH

Coach E holds rich one-on-one tourney

SIXTY PUBLISHED SPORTS OF PRECLEARS AT STAKE AS THE Coach E Basketball School holds the Last Man Standing One on One Basketball Challenge on June 6 and June 13, 2015 at the UBI Gym of Kalye Serye City.

International Basketball Academy president Kasy Bunag said the tournament will showcase the individual talents of players against each other in line with Coach E's vision to develop fundamental skills in the game of basketball.

"There is nowhere to hide in this game as there will be no team, no teammates to pass the ball to when you're exhausted. It's all you out there until the end," he said.

Bunag said adding that interested participants may call 8684047 and 09088998047 or log on to its Instagram account for details.

There are three divisions, which are namely grade school, high school and open division. Grade school and high school participants need to show proof of enrollment while the open division is open for varsity players.

All participants need only to purchase an Smart Matchstarra (P250) worth for grade school, P350 for high school and P500 for the open division and basically at the Robinson's Store at the Gil Mall of Asia.

READY TO RUMBLE Members of the FLDT-AMLP national women's team are all pumped up before training for Kasalukuyan yesterday as campaign in the ASEAN Women's Boxing Championships May 31 to June 3. The Gabriela matchup of (from left) coach Rose Volcano, Josie Zabone (light flyweight), Alice Kate Aparri (flyweight), Mocha Pesicio (bantamweight), and head coach Gilbrate Candino Jr. The team is also supported by the Philippine Sports Commission.

Alcantara, partner sent off by Milan semis foes

A GERMAN PAIR ENDED THE CAMPAIGN of France Cesar Alcantara and Ireland's John Mountjoy after ballooning out a 6-4, 6-2 triumph Friday in the boys doubles semifinals of the Rodeo Bonifacio Indian Open junior tennis championships in Milan.

Fourth seeds Peter Heller and Kevin Kuzmina proved too much for the Filipino and his Irish lone partner, struggling to find their range against fifth seeded Pablo Bertola of Peru and Roberto Quiroz of Ecuador.

Bertola and Quiroz defeated seventh seed Brandon Victor Salcedo and Mikhail Shkolnik, 6-4, 7-6 (10), in the other semis.

The defeat spoiled a solid quarterfinal showing by Alcantara and Mountjoy, who relegated the hometown crowd by beating local Marco Gondi, Jr. and Gennaro Mandal, 6-1, 6-2.

Meanwhile, Alcantara will have to settle for a third straight championship finish after he had been outlasted in the Milan Open junior tennis championships in Milan.

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ALCANTARA

He will still see action in the Astrid Bowl Grade 1 tournament in Belgium with Fernando Ordoyama, the Japanese No. 12 in the world, as his new partner. Jaime Anthony Rosas

'Drift' championship today

THE CASTROL DRIFT TEAM LOOKS FOR-ward to another impressive feat as it competes in the fourth round of the Lamoral Drift Championship 2015 today at the Clark International Speedway in Pampanga.

Mahmood-driven Ford Mike Tuason, together with young ace Ryan Orgabido are racing pedals Honda Civic as they parade their reliable Mazda RX8 and the new Mazda RX7.

JP Tuason and Orgabido are keen on clinching the championship driving the Mazda RX-7, the world's first two-rotor powered drifting pick-up truck last year.

In the last leg, the Mazda RX-7 performed really well for Orgabido, who finished as JP and Orgabido bagged 1st runner-up and third place finishes, respectively.

Mike Tuason, on the other hand, hopes to steer the Mazda RX7 to another big triumph after a remarkable victory in the kickoff of the Philippine GT Championship.

For further details, interested parties may e-mail info@tuasonracing.com or visit http://www.tuasonracing.com/ or call 817-7705 for inquiries.

Anton breaks own record

MUZTFIELD CARLOS ANTON (BATTERS) his own record time to save back over 50 names from all over the country in the recent JDM Underground event held at the Clark International Speedway.

Driving his Mark Young Subaru impreza (provided OIC, Anton clocked 1:07.40 seconds, smashing his old record of 1:09.38 set during last month's Circuit Showdown.

"We had had surging problems during our first run at the track last month," said Anton. "This time we came prepared with a fuel cell and it worked wonders."

EJ Bugallosa of Eshopped Racing clocked in second with a time of 1:09.68 seconds while Mark Thomas of Phil-Germa finished third despite a throttle issue over the border during his last run of the day.

Anton dedicated the feat to good friend Jay Tinpuyo, who died last month.

Clark is a special place for Anton since it is the home track of his major sponsor Yokohama, whose plant is located inside the former American air base.

Anton is the reigning Philippine Hillclimb Champion and Philippine Invitation Champion.

CARLOS Anton flashes the thumbs up sign after his victory.

Arduous trip for Melendes

VETERAN COLLEGIATE HOOPER Mo Melendes said he was rolling them for his others like Louie Sabenacion, Michael Cortright were being stopped.

Bunag was returning a call I had made yesterday, requesting for an update on the fight scheduled today at the Visayan Pond in Cebu.

Bunag said Melendes and his team arrived a day later than expected, because he was not allowed entry to some places where Cebano fans are not welcome.

I couldn't make out clearly what Bunag was trying to say but the way I understood it, Melendes and his manager Ambo Montemayor had to charter a boat to take place to another because they were not allowed entry in some ports.

It wasn't clear either if some chip-ones by landed at

To make matters worse, Melendes and company lost their baggage in Cagayan, Mindanao.

* * *

"The trip from Colombia to Cebu took more than 24 hours and when the party finally arrived at the Waterfront Hotel, they were just in time for the press conference," Bunag related.

All they had to say, he said, were the clothes on their back.

"From the trunks he was supposed to wear for the fight was gone."

* * *

While he looks frozen and recovering to suit the sting, Melendes is actually a very pretty person, Bunag, Boxing said.

"There is 2 things?" that was the first thing he asked during the press conference. He said he was sorry for what happened to the Filipino boxer, explaining that it was not intentional. Melendes said the same thing would happen to him, since that's the nature of the sport.

Montemayor also inquired about the condition of 2, and said he was honored to be in the country of the "world's greatest boxer (Manny Pacquiao)."

For his part, Domingo expressed how pleased he was to get a chance to show what he could do.

* * *

While the PBA has entertained applicants for the post of marketing director and administrative officer, PBA vice chair Rene Pardo said there are still no candidates being considered for the newly created position of deputy commissioner.

I asked around and so far, I got only one name that was twice mentioned. Chito Salud.

Hiring is expected to start next month.

* * *

NEE is for another Lakers Cebuo finale in the Nite?

If Alex Lenby does coach Ryan Gregorio, who has been a Lakers fan since the Magic Kareem era, certainly finds us.

"We, the Lakers, should be in the finals. On the other hand, Gregorio's point is evident again and they are proving doubters wrong with their solid playoff performance."

"For history tradition and rivalry I want to see another Lakers-Celtics championship. I believe they will be the last two teams standing after the playoffs.

* * *

For the information of NBA fans, the NBA playoffs and the finals will be aired live and exclusively over Solar TV (Channel 9) and Basketball TV.

The next three playoff games starting today will be televised at 8:30 a.m. while the May 26 match is scheduled at 9 a.m.

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

PCF football team gets lift

THE PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION football team's participation in the 1st Football for Good Championships in December got a big lift after Alaska Boardsports committed its support.

Freddy Ganan Gonzales, president of Alaska Boardsports and team co-owner of the Philippine Basketball Association, said the company's support of PCF in the tournament for two forwarder footballers.

In 2005, Gonzales played for East Asia Commercial Bank in the V League in Vietnam. He also played for Ateneo FC in the Philippines.

Jane Walker, CEO of PCF which currently in the United Kingdom, was elated to hear that his team will now be known as Alaska Boardsports-PFC United in the PCF.

The team teams in La Salle Green Hills.

The 1st football for Good Championships is organized by The Henry V. Sicam Foundation in partnership with the La Salle Green Hills Football program and PCF.

Drug-testing now a non-issue, says Arum

By Rey Lachica

AS FAR AS BOB ARUM IS CONCERNED, DRUG testing is now a non-issue with regards to negotiations for a Manny Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather showdown in November.

In a television interview yesterday, Arum, who promotes Pacquiao, said that Pacquiao's declaration that he's willing to take a blood test 14 days before the proposed fight next year was made in the Philippines and should be taken in that value.

Arum, who was given the go-signal by Pacquiao to resume negotiations with the Mayweather camp when he left the Philippines last Sunday after watching his protégé manhandle Dareparch's lone congressional seat, wants the talks to proceed without hassles.

Team Mayweather seems to have adopted the same stance as media queries regarding that matter rose in Pacquiao's pronouncement on Wednesday night drew "no-comment" responses.

This despite reports that came out, attesting that Mayweather was tested 18 days before his fight with Oscar Mosley, who was last tested 119 days before the May 3 showdown won by Mayweather via unanimous decision.

In an Examiner report on Friday however, Mayweather was quoted as saying that he's no longer amenable to just 14 days and wants it 30/thirty/or eight random drug testing/call the way to the fight.

So far, Pacquiao maintained that he wouldn't agree to a date closer than two weeks before fight time because blood extraction made him weak as what he experienced in his first bout against Eric Morales. The Mexican won that bout, but was stopped by Pacquiao in their two succeeding fights.

According to a Bothhatan report yesterday, Team Mayweather and Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer did not comment on Pacquiao's comparison offer.

The Pacquiao-Mayweather showdown is projected to be boxing's biggest fight ever with both getting seven-expected to earn at least $40 million each.

When Pacquiao-Mayweather did not materialize, Pacquiao went on to face and beat Ghanaian Joshua Clottey on March 15 before 50,994 fans at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Mayweather, on the other hand, dismissed Mosley at the 88:00 round in Las Vegas.

MAYWEATHER

PACQUIAO

Sixers hire former top pick as new head coach

TYE PHILADELPHIA 76ERS HIRED DOUG Collins as their new coach Friday and changed hats with reviving a sagging franchise that has the No. 2 overall pick in the June draft.

Collins emerged as Philadelphia's top choice out of seven candidates, marking the second time he's come out on top within the organization after Sixers made him the No. 1 overall pick in the 1973 draft.

This is Collins' fourth stint as an NBA coach. He's worked as an analyst for TNT since leaving the Washington Wizards in 2003.

"We are excited to hire a head coach with the level of experience, knowledge and passion that the game that Doug Collins has," team president Ed Stefanski said. "He has been around basketball his entire life, has experienced success at every stop throughout his career and we are confident in his ability to lead our team."

Collins could not immediately be reached for comment. The Sixers have scheduled a news conference for Monday.

Collins went 332-287 in coaching stints with Chicago, Detroit and Washington. He led the Bulls to the Eastern Conference Finals in 1989.

The Sixers made him the No. 1 overall pick in the 1973 draft, and he played eight seasons with them. He retired after nine All-Star ties cut short shortened by injuries.

It proves familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Thursday that Collins agreed to a four-year deal.

Stefanski next steered Collins to Sixty-1, and he quickly became the top candidate to replace the fired Eddie Jordan.

"The past week has provided us with a series of events that we believe will be a turning point for the Philadelphia 76ers," Comcast-Spectacor chief Ed Snider said. "Doug Collins is a coach that can make an immediate impact. He has all the attributes that we are looking for in a new head coach and we are happy to welcome him back into the Sixers family."

The 56-year-old Collins will need time to build a winner in Philadelphia, something other members haven't been afforded. Since Larry Brown left in 2003, nine others have failed to coach more than 82 games for the organization. AP

TIGHTEN Alex Mallare, who goes up for a spike against Ben Kenobi-Bonifacio at Ateneo, is the top local candidate for the Shakey's V-League MVP trophy. ALBERT DELOSO

Peaking UST, San Sebastian start title duel

By Jasmine N. Payo

A UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS TIGRESS all set to reassert its dominance battles a San Sebastian squad similarly flaunting the right championship tools at the start of the Shakey's V-League Season 7 wide showdown today.

And UST assistant coach Vilet Ponce De Leon thinks the all-time Tigresses have started flashing their top form in the final stretch of their bid for a third straight crown.

"We are peaking at the right time," said Ponce De Leon, who will call the shots for the third straight game. "The players are showing the level of play that we're looking for, but a little more polish."

Game 1 of the first of three title series between the two powerhouse teams starts at 4 p.m. at the PCSC Flying V Arena in San Juan.

"We need to play much better," said coach Roger Gonzaga even as his Lady Tigers overpowered the Tigresses in their lone eliminations meeting.

Leonen, which dragged UST to a winner-take-all semifinals, faces Ateneo for the third spot in another best-of-three series at 2 p.m.

The league will honor the top individual performers right after the first match, with UST ace Aiza Maizo getting another shot at the MVP crown.

Maizo, the reigning MVP, emerged as the top local performer behind three Thai imports vying for the top individual plum.

"I'm just happy that we're going to the finals," said Maizo. "The past kept on training."

Power De Leon remains wary of San Sebastian standouts Suzanne Roces, Joy Benito and Jaremarc Bonito, the Thai import duo back in the running for the MVP award.

"We just can't concentrate on one player to stop, there are several of them we need to keep an eye on," said Power De Leon, who took over since head coach Shing de los Santos left for a coaching overseas in Bolo last week.

Maizo leads the league in blocks with 3.71 per conference per game to rank fourth overall in the statistical race at 114 points.

That imports grabbed the top three spots with Leonen's Nonnip Sanmong ruling with 180 points.

Jaremarc, the league's 2007 best player, came second with 179 points, followed by Ateneo's Sonsuda Sureenuth with 162 markers.

Benitez ready for Suzuka track

ARMED WITH A STUNNING DOUBLE triumph achieved against an elite cast of karters recently, Jeff Racing skipper Jeet Sweeny aims for a higher prize when he plunges into action in the KF2 Class of the CIK Karting World Championship at the Suzuka Circuit in Japan.

Sweeny, who has been silent in the local circuit the past months, announced his return to competitive shape when he outpaced the powerhouse field with his sensational confidence in the recent 2008 Magnolia Super Karting Series at the Speedcraft Fast Track in Manila.

He will take on the best karters from Asia and Europe today.

The 21-year-old Sweeny wiped with the field that included ace karter Jethro Mauricio, to win both the NSK Overall and the NSK Senior crowns in the last national series in a masterful showing that will serve him in good stead when he participates in the World Cup and at the Carrinova Racing Circuit on June 13 to 15 in the Asian Karting Open Championship.

"The confidence level would be low but it is not been for those two wins. They (wins) are indeed a game changer for me," said the towering karter third year high school student, who is backed by Bingo Bonanza Corp., Henry Sy Jr. of SM companies, Willy Ditor of Pacific Online Systems Corp., Indonesia and Debbie Corp.

The Jeff Racing team captain was flawless in three races, emerging first in the time-trial, qualifying heat, pre-and final races, the final two of which he did via count to count fashion.

JAM Sweeny is driving with renewed confidence.

Cash-strapped softball squad seeking sponsors

By Faustino Michelo Villanueva
Cook Reader

TEAM MANILA OF BIG LEAGUE softball is in need of sponsors who will step up to the plate and swing the checkbook for the Philippine Regional Tournament in July.

Despite the team's qualification and absolute right to represent the Philippines in the tournament, one problem remains for the squad: Funds.

"We still need to raise funds to get to Indonesia. Unlike other delegations, we don't have a specific source of funding. We just rely on donations given by sponsors," said Little League charter President and Big League head coach Filomeno "Boy" Cuddiyan at the week.

It's Scoop in Batangas Forum.

The 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament is in Bandung, Indonesia, requires an estimated P2,000,000. Each of the team's only has to forward until May 31 in Little League Philippines, which in turn has to transmit it to Indonesia before the June 1 deadline.

Aside from the entry fee, Team Manila is also having problems with their travel and allowance needs. They need about P75,000 for travel and an allowance of at least $50 per person per day, according to Robert Frontera, chair of the Manila Little League Charter.

"I have calculated and conversed in pesos [the trending that] we need and it totaled to P2,000,000," said Guangchua. "Unfortunately, we still did not get the deals to reach the P2,000,000 to travel from Jakarta to Bandung and vice versa.

The tournament will determine who will represent the region in the Big League World Series later in August in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The Team Manila girls barely lost in the finals—via a homerun in the last inning—of the World Series in 2008 against the team from Grand Rapids, Michigan and the squad is confident that they will once again represent the region in the finals.

It is not the first time the softball team suffered financial woes.

In 2007, the Philippines had their teams qualifying for the Asia-Pacific tournament in Guangzhou, China. Three of those teams, all from Bacolod, were nearly deported for having no money to pay for board and lodging and had some of their games postponed until former PSC chief William "Butch" Gunzon came to the teams and paid the organizers $9,000.

POC eyes large Asiad delegation

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BETWEEN 340 AND 360 ATHLETES ARE bound to be included in the Philippine delegation to the Guangzhou Asian Games in November.

The Philippine Olympic Committee yesterday said its working group is still in the process of finalizing the endorsements of the national sports associations.

The name by number is expected to be sent to the Asiad organizers by June 15. On August 1, all names by name should also be in.

But being included in the entry by name does not guarantee a candidate a slot in the final games delegation, POC working committee member Clarito Samson told reporters at the weekly Scoop sa Batangas yesterday.

"The athletes have to be evaluated depending on the criteria set by their NSAs," Samson said.

Samson said the 87 delegation would definitely surpass the 60-athlete projection of the Philippine Sports Commission.

"Definitely over (just) 80," Samson said.

The country fielded 222 athletes in the 2006 Doha Asiad and then went home with four gold, six silvers and nine bronzes. With reports from Chanmor Mallora Rafanan

RISING STARS The De Borcia siblings emerge winners anew in the 45th Summer Youth Program of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City. Nicholas Dy Borcia (left) was the overall champion and top draw in the advanced Group III-B Division. Younger sister Andrea (middle), finished 2nd runner up in the same division, while Mariknes (right), the youngest of the brood and the youngest player to tie division, topped Group III-A.

Sunday SPORTS

E-mail at: sports@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Sheena shines in National Open

Foul-prone Dagmil crashes in long jump, captures 100m instead

RMHC SUCCESSFULLY HOLDS 14TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Exciting action golf raffle draws were on for grabs for the 18 participating teams, among them is Purple Family golf team photo from Cesar Lim, Alfonso GATUP and DOTC.

Golfers who passed an audition for a specific one-of-a-kind karaoke blast... placing the highest bid as P35,000 was Dir. Al Dizon of Consular Affairs & Asst. Financial of the auction also goes to RMHC.

For the complete list of sponsors, winners and more information on RMHC visit www.rmhc.ph/golf, www.facebook.com/rmhcphilippines or email RMHC@rmhc.com.ph

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SHEENA ALBANO FINALLY HAD HER DAY in the sun.

The Southeast Asian Games heartbreak gold classified runs gold medals proximity in the 2010 Milo-National Open track and field championships at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Albano sailed her pet event, the 100-meter hurdles, and the 200-m dash to feel her quest to make the Asian Games delegation in Guangzhou in November.

"Here in the Philippines, the gold medal in hurdles will surely be mine," said the 26-year-old Albano, who got injured in the 2007 Thailand SEAG and placed fourth in the Laos edition last year.

She trained extensively in the United States last year in a bid to finally score in big women events.

"I'm turning 30 next month," said the comely Cebuana who is taking up courses in physical education at La Salle. "Actually, I was stressed out these days because I am also preparing for my thesis defense."

Albano clocked 14.30 seconds in hurdles, beating Lizza dela Vega (15.34) and Ma. Jes-

PARTICIPANTS in the 400-m dash leave out of the starting blocks.

sny Tegle (15.82), before sprinting for the gold in 2006 with a time of 26.39 seconds. Rhonalyn Semeco (26.76) and Sherelyn Logrono (27.05) settled for silver and bronze.

"I could have performed better but the heat was too much," said Albano who owns the national mark of 13.66 seconds done three years ago in Asian Grand Prix in India.

The sale of wins belonged to Cherry Dagmil, who was called for six foul jumps in men's long jump won by fellow national team member and reigning Southeast Asian Games champ Isabel Delicano.

Delicano cleared a distance of 7.4 meters to take the gold, beating Amaish Melchor (6.72) and Nilo Espinosa (6.35).

Dagmil salvaged a measure of pride when he topped the men's century dash in 10.71 seconds. He said he was having difficulty with the take-off which caused him to bad all his attempts. Joseph Sy wasn't amazed as grabbed as he is in Germany recording a match-winning strike.

Other Philippine pool members who earned golds were Wilfred Abarga in boys' 2,000m steeplechase (5:57.21), Hernani Sore in men's steeplechase (9:26.80), Elmer Sanang in men's shot put (15.19m), John Albert Marcos in boys' shot put (13.05m), Erwann Thanee in boys long jump (6.98m), and Jocelyn Bongcos of FEU (37.27m) in girls' javelin.

'PATINTERO'

OSCAR Rodriguez plays defense during a game of "patintero," a traditional Filipino street game during the Palarong Pinoy Para sa mga K (Kapansinan, Kilalahan at Katuwaan) held at the football field of the San Lorenzo Village in Makati City. The tournament, organized by the Persons With Disabilities & Company and the Makati Canon's Club, aims to make PWDs contributors in promoting Philippine culture while serving as inspiration in overcoming their limitations. The event also featured other street games like running races, skits and jokes. Photos taken during the event will be displayed in SM Makati on July 17-18 as part of the celebration of the National Disability Week.

Alabang golfers capture Ladies Fed League title

ALABANG RECOVERED FROM A HOLE Adrian at home with a storming performance in the many match on Sul Sta. Elena and capture the 2010 Ladies Federation Golf League championship recently.

With their backs against the wall after suffering a 3.5-5 loss to Baguio they hosted Sta. Elena in the opener of the home-and-away circle series, Alabang fashioned a big reversal with a sweeping 5.5-.5 result the next day for a 6-3 victory.

It was Alabang's gutsiness on pair of Celeen Handog and Lit Mendiona which secured the all-important victory once more, coming from behind to beat Gaelle Mangun and Aracan Lipanon.

Handog and Mendiona, the same pair which sent Alabang to the finals by winning a playoff game against Manila Southwoods, fell three behind to the first five holes, still trailed by one after the 14th but were three straight from the 15th for a 2-and-1 decision.

That win denied Sta. Elena's hope of forging a playoff and allowed Alabang to an first league championship. The league organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines, Inc. also crowned its sixth winner in as many years.

Alabang's elite foil seemed in jeopardy when one by Tammy Leung-Hooper Shimizu (baseball) and Stacey Ortiga-Bing Libore (aggregate) plus a draw by Bea Bidarco-Thomas Hidao gave Sta. Elena a 2.5-1.5 victory.

Alabang team leaders Israel Duran and Vidou Gomez revamped their lineup for the next day but left the Hunting Hawkins combination.

The ploy worked as Alabang almost scored a sweep. Marjorie Lagunzad and Ellen Nguyen earned an easy 4&3 win in aggregate, Rita Herrera and Wenie Chua prevailed 2 and 1 in high-low and Wenie Ghelan and Vilu Torralba salvaged a draw to forestall.

Aguilar cruises to m'cross wins

ELDEN AGUILAR OF TEAM ETM-THERASIL Lacoupe topped the Pro Lites and the premier Pro Open of the Sel..1 Sports National Motocross Championship Series' 7th leg at the Clark International Speedway last weekend in Angeles, Pampanga.

Aguilar, the only Filipino to have won an FIM Asian Motocross Championship, dug deep from his bag of tricks in riding the four heats of both the Pro Lites and Pro Open to the delight of around 10,000 spectators at the 1.2-km track.

The 11-time Rider of the Year outscored the 14-riders field in the moment to victory in the races of 12 grueling laps each.

"The crowd was amazing, and so I didn't want to disappoint them," said Aguilar. "It was pure joy giving them a good motocross show."

Legendary rider Jerry Sunday took the pole, but was overtaken by Aguilar after two laps in the 20-foot sidestep jump.

AGUILAR: A good show

Last year's Golden Wheel Rider of the Year finished Pasay overlook finding in fourth runner-up to Aguilar.

"The goal of this event is to popularize the sport again," said Asbury Sta of Clark International Speedway. "If we hold more races, more enthusiastic will be drivers to the sport. If that happens, we may see a motocross renaissance on in the very near future."

Business/Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Sunday BIZ

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Defeated bet serious on 'people's resto'

13-YEAR-OLD Jack Dubinan began the groundwork for the creation of a public corporation to fulfill a campaign promise.

By Dolores Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—VOTERS may count Jack Dubinan as the first defeated candidate in the May 10 election to fulfill his campaign promise to build "people's enterprises."

This week, the 75-year-old businessman and his spouse began the ground work for the creation of a public corporation to fulfill a campaign promise to provide farmers and small-scale miners in Benguet with enough capital to build their own "people's enterprises."

This sets Dubinan's first foray into politics, running as the Nacionalista Party candidate for Benguet's lone congressional seat, and landing in second place behind winner Ronald Cosalan of the Liberal Party.

"I lost my bid. But this should not discourage me from fulfilling my promise during the campaign. I owe a lot to my support

Dream is to provide farmers with capital to build 'people's enterprises'

ers and I am indebted to them," Dubinan says.

He committed his campaign staff and members of his family to help pose hundred-peso bills to a public company they would all own through capital share contributions.

The owners of the popular Jack's Restaurant here and in nearby Baguio City says this public company may be a people's restaurant.

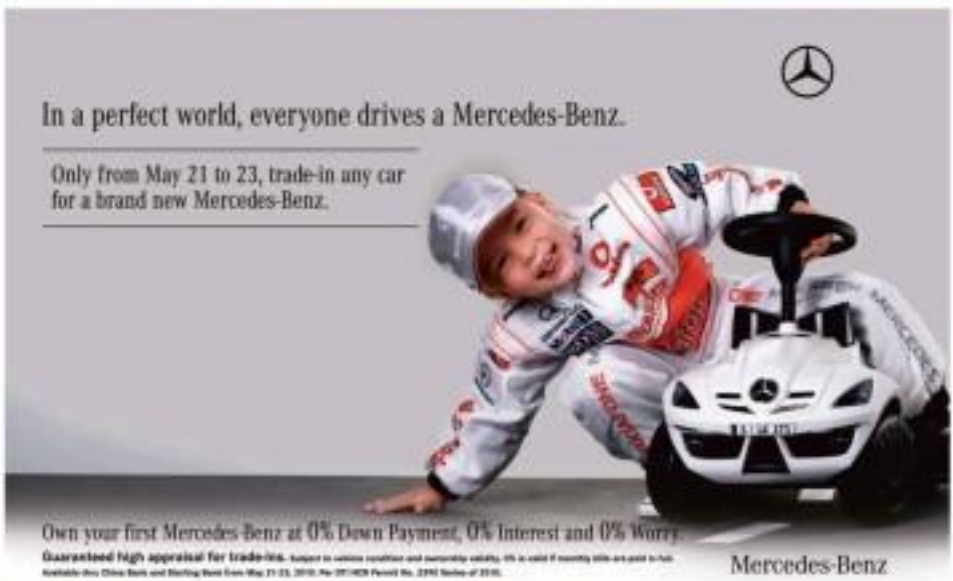
Dubinan had also asked his staff to review the election results and determine the towns where he would provide financial assistance, or raising capital, to start small, medium or micro enterprises for residents.

The businessman had promised to focus on poor and pig raising enterprises, a campaign platform that was widely ridiculed by his opponents.

A high school graduate, Dubinan started with a small store here in the 1970s which he capitalized using no more than P5,000.

His business grew into a newspaper dealership, a piggery and poultry enterprises, a vegetable gardening and a chain of stores and restaurants he retails he needs a name.

Dubinan became famous for his "Jack's Stew," the meal that set the local seafood trend of serving different kinds of viands in one dish. His business success earned him the moniker "Mr. Pinoybiz."



The four-letter word that makes you and your work irresistible

By Mark Suzbert

LOVE IS A FOUR-LETTER WORD IN the business world. It makes us uncomfortable, it seems inappropriate or overzealous.

It can also make you and your work irresistible.

Let me explain:

Some years ago I wrote a book about an extraordinary individual who loves his work. My editor at the time disliked the word love every place I used it. Instead, he suggested using the phrase "passion of spirit."

"Why not love?" I inquired.

"Because the word love freaks out businesspeople," he responded.

In my estimation, he was half right. I think the word love freaks out most people, especially others applied to work. That's because more often than not it is associated with sappy sweet emotion or sentimentality. "I love my colleagues." "I love my customers." "I love the daily grind." Hollow. Superficial. Cliché.

Nobody I know loves every aspect of her or his job. It don't know of any perfect jobs in this imperfect world. I wish they existed. But I know that it is possible to love the work we perform, love the people we work with, and love the people we ultimately serve. We can do it without going over the top or becoming mushy-gushy.

What does love look like when it shows up for work? If you pay attention, you'll notice it more often than you think.

A few months ago, I spent time at the Ritz-Carlton in downtown Atlanta. Everyone you'll meet in the Ritz is sympathetic on top of his or her game. The staff refers to you by name and exhibits the attitude of "ladies and gentlemen serving ladies and gentlemen." Their unique brand of service will raise you by all other hotel chains. But it also makes it challenging for a Ritz-Carlton employee to truly stand out.

After a night's run, I entered the hotel restaurant and took my place in line at the breakfast buffet. A short, suited dynamo stuffed the omelet station. "What can I prepare for you, sir?" he asked.

I ordered an egg-white omelet with lots of vegetables, ham, and a little cheese. "You've got to add a little cheese to an egg white omelet," I shared with Jeremy "otherwise it's just too fleeting."

"Not my omelet!" he boomed. "They're never boring. That's because I add a special ingredient. It's passed for school." "I make my omelets with businesswear!"

His mischievous pronouncement got my attention, but I smiled politely and took the plate. With one bite, I could tell that Jeremy had created an extraordinary dish for me. A few unanswered bites by eyes by the tables to see how I liked it. I did like it more than this, probably because it was made with love. Jeremy got serious for a moment and said, "If you can't do it with love, why do it at all?"

Chef Jeremy gets it. He understands that when we allow love to define who we are as we work, we become irresistible leaders with a contagious passion for what we do.

Defining the irresistible ingredient

To begin, we must reclaim our misunderstood understanding of the term love, defining it as finding a deep sense of passion for what we do, the people we do it with, and the people we do it for. Regardless of the type of work we do, we can find fulfillment and meaning in at least one of those areas.

Take Sam, for instance.

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

One hot South African afternoon, a stranger photographed him carrying a frail 75-year-old man down the side of a busy road. The rescued man had missed his bus home and became lost in the city. Fearful that Sam Tshabalala would be late for work, he carried the man more than two miles to his home and then returned to work. Sam's heroic act of kindness is just part of who he is. He builds a blind man home for the elderly every year and helps him navigate his bags. Over a decade of friendship, Tsakada describes what generous Chandler needs, using lots and pieces of only curiosity and labels.

According to one of Sam's customers, "Sam's employer Dick & Bag without him. He always comes to our rescue and says, 'Don't fret, Sam is sure.'"

I don't know Sam, obviously, but I'd be willing to wager he loves his work and his customers. When I first read the story, I was reminded of Sam Tshabalala. He used to end his performances with "Love you madly!"

Can you say or at least think something like that at the end of your "performance" each day? Do you find satisfaction or fulfillment in your daily responsibilities? Do you enjoy working with your colleagues on specific projects or for a common cause? Do you desire to see your business or company have an impact on your town, city, or country? And if so, why not?

Our lives and work are studded by love when we enjoy what we're around of events, focus on how we do something rather than just doing it, see a task as a privilege rather than an obligation, make relationships a priority, and move beyond simple actions to the accompanying emotions.

Adding the ingredient

Kahlil Gibran famously said, "Work is love made visible." That probably sounded exotic when used in seventh grade when we didn't have a job ... but after a few years of employment, I wonder how many of us could quote him with a straight face?

But there are those who love—whether it be what they do, who they do it for, or all three—and they "make love visible" in variety of ways.

For love to make any difference it needs to be demonstrated and not simply felt. It needs to be both attitude and action. To remember what can be done to infuse the irresistible ingredient into any type of work, I use the acronym "F-U-L-F-I-L-L-S." If you can understand the powerful ripple of adding love to your work, here's a way to do it regardless of your job or role or task thereof.

Patience

I don't think Mother Theresa woke up in the morning and muttered, "Oh Lord, see more injured!" She did some of the hardest work on the planet, and she seemed to be far more fulfilled and remorse than we often sit comfortably in our air-conditioned offices. How could that be?

Love is choosing to accept someone imperfections, weaknesses, demands, and all no matter his or her circumstances. It's not about need to meet our coworkers and customers where they are, not where we want them to be. Patience requires us to set our own expectations aside without indulging in frustration or negativity.

Recognition

According to Mary Kay Ash, founder of the eponymous multi-billion dollar cosmetics company, "There are two things people want more than sex and money—recognition and praise."

Love is paying attention. We don't ignore that which we love, whether a person or an activity. Focus equals fondness.

Recognition motivated by love moves beyond the casual acknowledgment of existence; it does more than exist or what it is. Before we can recognize the potential often

Appreciation

Friends of mine just launched an internet company called Propadoo (propa-pronounced-noo). The idea is insanely simple: use the web to make it easy for people to give and receive "props" online. Want to give a service provider a recommendation? Do it in, stately at Propadoo. Want your clients to know about the new reviews others give you? Use Propadoo. Yes, there is a necessary self-serving basis, and increased search engine optimization for the social listener is more interesting to me. Propadoo is about recognition and appreciation. Propadoo lets people use technology to send a message that says, "I appreciate you." Want words more? I appreciate you."

Appreciation comes from hunting for what's right rather than being hypersensitive to what's wrong. It is about choosing to focus on the positive even when you can't ignore the negative.

Too often we forget to stop and express our appreciation to the people who serve alongside us and the people who serve us. From the smallest gesture, a smile or a quick Internet "prop"—to the largest bonus or reward, people need to know that their work is valued. One customers and coworkers will respond positively every time we offer genuine appreciation ... guaranteed.

Counsel

Don't tell people what they want to hear. Tell them what they need to hear. Just make sure you tell them in a way that they will listen!

I recall being put off by a highly recruitment sales professional in an electronics store until he confided in me that the DVD player I was about to purchase was incompatible for babies with problems. He would have made a commission had I bought the unit, and yet he demonstrated his concern for me by sharing that insight instead. His interest in helping me make a good buying decision instantly changed my attitude toward him.

Love is offering wise and insightful advice that is in the best interest of the receiver rather than the giver. When asked, it is easy to criticize or suggest the first thought that comes to mind, no matter its validity. A thoughtful lover or supporter chooses that we value the individual and care about his or her need.

Time

Love is taking time to address needs, not needs. It can lightning fast world where the average attention span is less than two minutes, time is a valuable commodity and should be handled as such. By giving the gift of time to a coworker or customer, we show that we value them above all of the other things that cry out for our attention.

One of the most powerful love promises is to be fully present with another person. We ask each other "How are you doing?" all the time and never really mean it. How tragic!

Take the time.

Teacher Tom Lewis invited The Paling School decades ago in downtown Washington, D.C., hoping to give children from low-income families a chance to succeed as adults. Recently, the same from ABC's Diane Sawyer. Diane Editor stumbled across Tom's school while working to the area. The cameras showed dozens of her shot of bright-eyed children studying, working with their teachers, and playing on a broken-down building with heavy bars every window and door.

Interviewers asked the kids where they thought they might be if they didn't have the Paling School. "On the street. In jail. On the branches. ... Maybe dead like my dad." Next, they asked what the kids wanted to be when they grow up. "Mr. Lewis said I can be a doctor someday if I study hard." "I want to be a pilot." "I'm gonna be the president!"

Most of the kids had dreams. "I want to be Mr. Lewis. I asked him to be my daddy because I never had one. I want to build my own school and teach little just like he does."

One of my favorite teachers from high school taught a subject for which I initially had little regard. However, it soon became clear that he was as interested in his students as he was his subject, and he taught it in such a way that they would truly benefit from his instruction.

Love is teaching someone else with passion, diligence, commitment, and selflessness. By offering up our experience and hard-won knowledge, we can help others to avoid mistakes that we've made, achieve results that we've been able to achieve, and improve beyond what we've been able to accomplish. The best leaders I've coached work alongside their students as they learn, appreciating their accomplishments rather than emphasizing their shortcomings.

Compassion

Of course we can all go through the motions do the right things, implement the right practices and believe in the right ways but how we do our work makes all the difference. Acting with passion and out of compassion is the difference between mundane and magnificent.

Over thirty years ago I heard a highly successful entrepreneur speak. The only point I can remember is his comment, "Everybody hurts." As professionals, we carefully cultivate a cold, emotional veneer with our Armani suits. But in truth, we are all broken, hurting, wounded people. That's life. My pal author and speaker Sue Davis encapsulated our existence well: "I'm not OK, you're not OK, and that's OK."

Acknowledging our weaknesses, struggles, our losses, and comforting each other through difficult times will strengthen our relationships like nothing else can. True compassion requires us to be vulnerable and to admit our own struggles even as we offer empathy and support to others.

Encouragement

Love is offering heartfelt words of affirmation, inspiration, and motivation to our customers and coworkers. We all need someone not something—to turn to on front the rebellions of our lives. We should seek to notice when others do well and hold them up when they fail. Often neglected, encouragement is probably the easiest way to incorporate the irresistible ingredient into our lives and relationships. It we just look around, opportunities to encourage others are everywhere.

Service

Love is serving others without expecting anything in return. Service is the opposite of selfishness. Unfortunately, the struggle goes far beyond making sure that a customer's questions are answered or requests are fulfilled. Irresistible service happens when we anticipate needs and respond with insight and excellence.

Shelley Bartel owns a small store called Diner on the wharf in Portland, Maine. The story you hold several separate restaurants all of which charged high prices and didn't seem a blue collar crowd. Nearly twenty years ago, Shelley wrapped together her savings and opened a delicatessen in the space where lobstermen and captains of industry rope on the boat and personal schizophrenics, university professors and cab drivers rub shoulders at the counter.

All of her meats are hacked by a seventy-plus-year-old grandmother. If you don't like it, you don't pay. Before you, every customer quickly becomes a regular ... and a treasured friend. Many folks in the area eat at Becky's daily. When regulars don't show, they call in beforehand. Otherwise, Becky or one of her staff will be by right after lunch with homemade soup and a muffin straight from the oven.

The outstanding service has inspired countless publicity offers, franchise opportunities, and more. But there is only one Becky, and she's motivated by love. Being in business for love's what she does. She still she does it with, and she exemplifies she does it for.

Offspring of Love at Work

Fiscus Stewart in The Art of Thinking wrote, "Love, whether it be a matter of Truth, of pure, simple, elemental love, always opens up the intellect and gives it freedom of genius."

We all work. Whether we wash windows, prepare taxes, sell cars, or lead corporations, we spend more time at work than we do at any other activity. Why not do it with love?

When we add the irresistible ingredient of love into every element of our work, a job becomes an occupation,

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Maxwell H PROSPERITY FORUM

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Theme: Creating Growth via New Channels

July 7, 2012 (Wed.), 1:30 - 5:30 P.M., Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City

Session 1:
The Go-To-Market Strategy: Re-examining New Channels
by Emilio Marasigan III, Partner and Chief Distribution Strategist

Discover valued Go-To-Market Strategy framework that can help identify new channels as opportunities for growth.

Session 2:
Molding "Entrep-powered" Business-to-Business Account Personnel
by Ruben Llaneras, Partner and Chief Sales Strategist

Develop "entrep"—powered" (entrepreneurial and empowered) account officers / managers, and find out how to effectively mold them to become ultimate replicants of the entrepreneur.

Session 3:
Creating An Army of Users Via Multilevel Marketing and Direct Sales
by Mala Dy Buncio, Chief Business Development Strategist

Gain an overview of direct selling dynamics, how to pay for performance, and how to leverage customers into a dynamic network.

Session 4:
Starting and Strengthening Customer Affinity and Loyalty Through Digital Marketing
by Donald Lim, Chief E-Marketing Strategist

Learn how to use the social and the many facets of online media to increase sales, build brand awareness and affinity, and engage customers in the new world of online.

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ABSENSON

Maxwell H

PROSPERITY FORUM

Credit card at heart of Asian fashion

By Edd Fuentes
Contributor

ASIA IS QUICKLY BECOMING the top market destination for global fashion.

The world's leading fashion designers are discovering the Asian economy as a viable platform to showcase their latest collections, while Asian designers are rapidly gaining global prominence.

Such a scenario, evident in the Audi Fashion Festival (AFF) 2010 and Blueprint 2010 during the recent Asia Fashion Exchange (AFE) in Singapore, should not come as a surprise.

Asia's combined purchasing power for fashion and footwear reached $779 billion in 2008, a dramatic increase of over 60 percent from $227.50 in 2000.

This is according to a study conducted by Euromonitor International, which also predicted the region's fashion market size will post a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.4 percent from 2008 to 2013, compared to negative 0.7 percent in Western Europe and 2.1 percent in North America.

At the heart of this fashion revolution is MasterCard, which understands that many of its cardholders are passionate about fashion.

MasterCard was the official card of the AFF 2009 and main sponsor of Blueprint 2010.

According to Natalie Lookwood, group head, Regional Marketing, Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa, MasterCard Worldwide, "Our own research shows that fashion and accessories rank among the top two spending priorities for consumers in the Asia/Pacific region and this offers up many opportunities for fine fashion and design community here."

MasterCard is building a strong fashion platform globally by leveraging on its retail leadership, coupled with its vast knowledge and consumer insights, to help cardholders enjoy and celebrate their passion for fashion.

This commitment is evident in the recent AFE, a showcase of top international designers and labels, and Blueprint, an industry event for international fashion professionals.

The AFE was a five-day event that featured runway shows featuring world-class collections of noted international labels and designers like Dsquared2, ETE, Mcraje, Tiffany & Co., Herve Leger, Rochas, Marchesa and Roberto Cavalli.

On the other hand, Blueprint was a three-day fashion oasis show that brought together the best of local designers and international buyers.

Some 50 exhibitors and 1,000 buyers and visitors from regional and long-haul markets attended the event, which showcased evening and formal wear, contemporary and ready-to-wear collections as well as end-to high-end jewelry and accessories.

"We are excited to be a part of this movement to stimulate demand for local and regional designers and position the region as the new hotbed of fashion design and demand," adds Lookwood.

This is the fourth year that MasterCard was involved in the fashion festival in Singapore.

(The author is the external public relations consultant of MasterCard in the Philippines.)

The four-letter word...

From page B1

Sheri becomes a career, and there becomes a successful career. We will build meaningful relationships with our colleagues. We will cultivate solid, trustworthy business relationships with our clients. And we will develop a very real, satisfying connection with the actual tasks at hand.

A positive cycle develops quickly, greatly expanding the effectiveness of our business. When we believe there will love, our products and services become more attractive, leading to better customer responses, greater employee retention, and more. But of all, the results will inevitably lead to a sense of personal fulfillment and renewed excitement.

Anyone can add love to his or her work, but nobody has to. The important factor is as much the individual—the lover—as it does the object of its practice. We while the irresistible ingredient is there for the taking, not everyone partakes.

According to an article in USA Today, a Dutch psychologist investigated the differences between those in careers and those in careers. He found no difference in IQ, memory, or spatial reasoning. The only difference he could identify: Regard memory simply loved their work. He concluded that they had more passion about and commitment to the game.

I've observed that you don't have to love what you do to be very good at it. I know very competent and successful individuals who have developed the skills to succeed at their work, by their own admission, they are what they do as a means to an end. They don't love their work, nor are they passionate about it. They are, however, good at it.

But when it comes to greatness, I tenaciously concur with the Dutch researcher. The inspired performers, the driven achievers and the grand masters of life seem to share a common denominator.

Love is the difference. This four-letter word will make you and what you do quite irresistible.

Make your leadership fit by attending Developing The Leader Within You on May 27-28 at the Dusit Hotel, Makati. Call Inquirer Leadership Competency at 6072611 or 7064613.

INSTEAD of attending his opponents' proclamation on May 12, Dulnuan sponsored a feast for his supporters.

Defeated bet serious . . .

From page B1

He operates Jack's Industrial and Transport System, a bus company he bought from the defeats Dongma Transportation Co.

He busy into politics came after supporters told him that his managerial experience and rags-to-riches story could inspire a business-minded and well-managed legislative agenda he Bongsot in Congress.

But his detractors downplayed his chances, saying a successful business does not automatically translate into good politics.

Dulnuan accepted his defeat graciously but instead of attending his opponents' proclamation on May 12, he sponsored a feast for his supporters and took the occasion to announce his plans to inspire a chain of "people's businesses" in the province.

When asked, the businessman admits his projects could still help him build a political career come 2013, but he says it would be on the shoulders of economic goodwill, not empty promises.

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GOOD BOJRN (left) with supporters of the Natasha Goulbourn Foundation

Fashion...

From page B4

"People who are depressed lose their perception of the feelings of others. They become extremely moody. One minute they are very happy, then the next they become very angry, or they cry a lot. And some can be the biggest cowardices," says Goulbourn, who admittedly read books and materials on depression to try and make sense of what happened to her daughter.

Timely help

Goulbourn believes that if she had known more about the different facets of depression, she would have been able to provide more help to her daughter, who was only 27 when she passed away.

"I remember that my daughter kept looking at the mirror. She was very beautiful, but she always thought about changing the way she looked. She also suffered from insomnia; she could not sleep even if she said she was tired all the time," says Goulbourn.

Goulbourn says no parent should go through what she had when her daughter died...alternating between grief and tearless feelings of guilt, asking herself if she did anything wrong or if there was something since she could have done for her daughter.

"That there was much, then I started blaming myself because I could not understand what my daughter was going through. But eventually, there was acceptance and a feeling that there was something else that I could do," she says.

New mission

For Goulbourn, that "something" is the foundation, which she says is fortunately getting increased support from individuals, organizations and corporations that have realized the importance of taking care of their employees' mental health as much as their physical and spiritual well-being.

The strategy over the next three years of the foundation, which aims to promote enhanced understanding of depression through education and communication for people afflicted by disease, their families and friends and the general public, is to prepare more information materials to shed light on depression and to reach out to more groups, especially overseas Filipino workers.

The foundation, which is celebrating its third anniversary this week, also plans to set up, own and manage a wellness center to serve as a sanctuary for individuals and families challenged by cases of depression in its early stage and to forge partnerships with like-minded individuals and organizations involved in the integrative health care approach.

The Natasha Goulbourn Foundation has a lot of ground to cover as according to the World Health Organization, about 15 percent of Filipinos are suffering from depression.

This year, it is foreseen to be the second most widespread disease in the world.

And contrary to perception that Filipinos are very happy people, the Philippines actually has the highest incidence of depression in Southeast Asia, according to the foundation.

It estimates that of 90 Filipinos clinically diagnosed as depressed, only 30 will seek help. The other 20 will suffer the symptoms but are ashamed to seek help, and the remaining 30 will suffer the symptoms but do not even know that there is something wrong with them.

For Goulbourn, knowing about depression is already a big step in managing the disease and the foundation will not stop spreading its message of taking care of every facet of the human being, not just his body.

"We have always emphasized the physical health, but mental well-being should not be taken for granted," says Goulbourn.

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Sunday BIZ

3 new Vice Presidents and a new Creative Head for Manprom Advertising

Manprom Incorporated, a full-service advertising agency based in Mandaluyong, recently declared a round of high-level promotions for four of its executives last January 29, 2016.

Maturan

Arguelles

Velasco

Leussing

Formally announced by Chairperson Mrs. Regina F. Dee and President, CEO and Executive Creative Director Ms. Dolores F. Chang, the elevation to top management positions include Sudie C. Maturan as the new Vice-President of Finance, Rosemarie I. Arguelles as Vice-President of Accounts, Virginia C. Velasco as Vice-President of Media, and Edmund R. Leussing as the new Creative Director.

Unique among many ad agencies in fostering a familial yet professional business environment, Manprom Inc. has the advantage of cultivating experienced and skilled talent from a loyal and dedicated employee pool. All of the newly-promoted executives have been with the company for a decade or more, and most of them have risen from the ranks to occupy key positions within the organization.

Incorporated in 1989, Manprom Incorporated offers a full range of advertising, marketing, and media management services for its clients, which include Rustan's, Stores Specialists Inc., China Bank, and Watchworks.

Fashion leader brings depression to light

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SIGE Cosmo's Jean M. Goulbourn

NEWS NUGGETS THE PAGE FIVE chronic report of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte III surfaced during the grueling campaign for the presidency, fashion designer Jean M. Goulbourn was among the first to react, saying that depression should not be used to discredit any individual.

That there is such a stigma attached to the medical condition of depression only strengthens Goulbourn's resolve to spread the word (one step away from her fast-acting Gift Center chain in the mold pioneered by the late Natasha Goulbourn Foundation, which she set up in 2007 in memory of her daughter, who died in 2002.

Misconceptions

"There are so many misconceptions about depression," Goulbourn tells Scandoyle. "Some people think that it is close to insanity. Others also think that it is nothing more than a self-centered issue on."

Depression is defined as "a persistent mental disorder, characterized by sadness, loss of interest or pleasure, feelings of guilt or low self-worth, disturbed sleep or appetite, low energy and poor concentration."

"These problems can become chronic or recurrent, substantially impairing an individual's ability to cope with daily life. At its most severe, depression can lead to suicide. Most cases of depression can be treated with medication or psychotherapy."

"The way I look at it, depression is a condition that is curable, if only people get the help they need," says Goulbourn.

Most Filipinos who suffer from depression, however, do not seek or get the help that they need to overcome negative feelings that can be overwhelming at times, leaving some people unable to even get out of bed.

"That's because of the fear that once they get treatment, they will be automatically branded as mentally unstable.

"This is where the Natasha Goulbourn Foundation comes in.

"Through its programs such as counseling and outreach programs, Filipinos suffering from depression and their families can get the help they need, and really enough broken negative feelings completely take over

READ ON B2

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships

Dear Kris—and all anti-Kris

By Iga Ramos
Lifestyle writer

The author posted this on Facebook, allowed us (those who signed up) on the "Inspiration for Kris" Facebook page.

HOLD YOUR HORSES.

Kris Aquino is the Philippines' number one brand, and perhaps one of the themes of Inquirer Resource's most esteemed contributors. As with most brands, either you love her or you hate her. There's never a gray area.

Every time she mentioned the name and mobile number of the designer who made her clothes in her game show "Game Ka Na Ba?" and outwardly on "The Buzz," aspiring Filipina women, especially the OFWs with TFC subscriptions, would call up the designer (usually from overseas) to place an order of what she was wearing on the show. That's the draw of the Kris Aquino brand.

She is the first Philippine celebrity to have an eponymous magazine, even before Sharon had her own. Only Oprah can have that audience pull.

Now that her brother is President, this is an opportunity for her to do something positive—something bigger than herself

She endorses practically every product—from cobbling alcohol and mobile phones to cakes and fast food joints. Inocuous advertisers believe she can sell. And yes, she does deliver the millions. The ROI is astounding.

Many young Filipinas aspire to be like her. She has fair skin and comes from a good family—well, not just a good family, but a family that has shaped the country's history. Her parents are modern-day national heroes with great marquee value.

It doesn't help that her father's portrait is on 1000 bills. Since her fathers passed away prematurely, having lots of P1000 bills in her possession might be comforting for her. This is just my Freudian analysis; I'm not saying she's murderous.

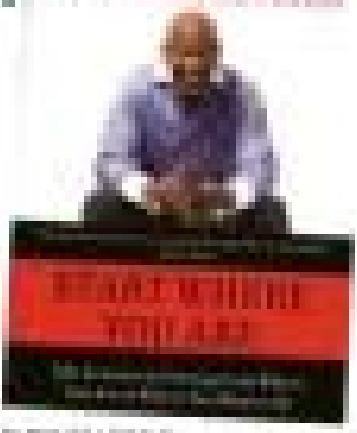
Kris Aquino's honesty is what has endeared her to most of her fans. She's not afraid to bare her innermost thoughts, and that vulnerability is held close by her loving admirers. That very same honesty is also her Achilles, because she doesn't hold back in airing her thoughts, even if it hurts.

Real trooper

When she ventured in the Philippines after her father was assassinated, Bong Pons asked her what she wanted to be when she grew up. She unabashedly answered, "I want to become like Sharon Cuneta!" With that statement, her fate was sealed.

Does anyone remember how the public went gaga when she did her first onscreen

The pursuit of 'happyness' is all about pursuing your passion



Cosmetics firm speaks out against domestic violence

She's afraid to love again after separating from her husband

BBC parenting series looking for old-fashioned Filipino family

The family will play host to 3 British teenagers as they run from discipline and traditional values

Dear Eric– and all anti-Arts

Barrio doctor revives stillborn baby in Surigao del Norte

PEOPLE WE HEAR OF MEDICINE during these times when we're caught in a "culture of harvest," it makes us realize that good things can still happen. An example is when Dr. Anthony Co, miraculously revived a stillborn baby in Dapa, Surigao del Norte. Dr. Co, a doctor-scholar of Pres Carolinorian Jose Miguel Arroyo Clinic for University of the Philippines, conducted month-to-month examinations and OB on the baby who had no heartbeat and was no longer breathing.

The miracle took place on March 26, when a 28-year-old impoverished woman from one of Dapa's inland barangays checked in at the Dapa Regional Health Unit (RHU) after suffering labor pains for 10 hours. Dr. Co told Jerry Udtuh-Solitario, president of the Pres Genuinian Foundation Inc., that he had no choice but to attend to her despite their lack of adequate equipment for neonatal resuscitation. With a midwife and one of his medical staff to assist him, Dr. Co attended to the woman.

Dr. Co said: "We turned patient side while with four sisters we had no oxygen tank, no suction machine and not even an ambu bag. But the baby needed to be resuscitated. We had to do mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and CPR to the newly delivered meconium-stained baby." He and his assistants performed manual suctioning to clear the baby's airways and stimulate the baby to breathe in the absence of a functioning machine.

"It was the longest two minutes of my life," Dr. Co said. In six. "Fortunately, God was watching us. The baby's heart started beating and she began gasping for air spontaneously."

PCs 'Bagong Doktor'

Dr. Co belongs to Batch 1 of PG's Bagong Doktor Para sa Bayan, a medical scholarship project for poor but deserving medical students, in return, the new doctors promise to serve two years in the country's countryside and poorest communities that have no access to proper medical care. For PG's other projects, visit GoingBeyondCamila.com.ph.

San Lorenzo Ruiz in Baybay

A three-ft image of San Lorenzo Ruiz was enthroned and blessed for the first time in the small church of St. John the Evangelist in Barangay Baybay in San Mateo, Bulacan, by Fr. Ric Robles, the church-in-charge priest who built the national shrine of the Divine Mercy in Marilao, Bulacan. The High Mass Fr. The celebrated at 8 p.m. on May 7, First featuring was significant for the San Lorenzo Ruiz Global Ministry, financed by Atty. Ferdinand Guba who lives in New York, the image looked handsome looking down at the faithful praying in front.

Tony Lucas and his wife Rosely and Boyet brought the image to the church. Rosita Andog and I were with Fr. Vic's driver Manading Bebe, who has been with the priest since he began building the Divine Mercy Shrine in Marilao.

Cathedral of St. Andrew

The Cathedral of St. Andrew in La Huerta, Parañaque, marked its 400th Foundation Day on May 15. It was on May 11, 1609 when the Confession of Chiefs of several religious orders made Malaqing (the old name of Parañaque) an independent town. Fr. Diego de Espinar, OSA, was the first prior. Msgr. Manuel Gabriel is the current parish priest and on the May 20 was the blessing of the newly renovated cathedral. Aug. 30 is the 395th Fiesta of Our Lady of Buen Suceso. Bishop Jesse Mercado heads the diocese of Parañaque.

The Rites of Justice Parish celebrated its fiesta last May 15 with the theme: "Pasasalamat sa Isang Dekada."

Dancing Sto. Niño

Assistant Secretary Pete Domingo of the Office of the Cabinet Secretary told me that there is a miraculous image of the Sto. Niño in a chapel in Malolos city, Carrello Imbelzon in Brgy. Tinira, Naraina. People go there for healing through the "medium" Rio Martin Herrera. The image is said to have moved several times and is called the "dancing Sto. Niño."

The chapel will turn 24 years old on May 17. The Imbelzon Sto. Niño Foundation will hold a medical mission on May 23, 8 a.m. 3 p.m.

Angel exhibit

The Angel Society and Investconsortial Manila are holding an exhibit of angel images at the hotel lobby May 26-Aug. 15. An on-the-spot painting of angels to open to kids aged 8-12 years old on May 29 at the poolside of the hotel. See Irene Cabrera at 8906-2407, 2227. 8 hours. "Know your Guardian Angel," will take place at 4 p.m. Text Pongo Barrion at 0917-8480588.

Banda Calatagan

Vicky Wimbo, founder and president of Kubing in Batulao, was excited to tell us that the products of women from Sta. Ana, Calatagan are now ready for viewing and sale at Tahiana in SM Makati, SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia and SM North Edsa. The products include embroidered napkins, mittens, towels, table toppers. The livelihood project started in 2006 and until now, 20 women from the coastal shores of Calatagan walk 4-6 kilometers in the livelihood center on hand to their finished products. They don't only sew. They also spend time praying not only for themselves, but for those who buy their products. Vicky Wimbo reminds us their spiritual formation.

Santa Calatagan is one of Kubing's many livelihood projects. Its main resource is feeding malnourished children which numbers 33,000 from all over the Philippines. Helping Wimbo are Amy Gloria, Carol Tumacan, Angelu Dallas, Carol Tumacan and Li Limjoko.

Kerygma run

Some 5,000 runners are expected to join the Run a Kilometer for Kerygma on May 29, 5:30 a.m., at the SM Mall of Asia grounds, to raise funds to help orphans, abandoned children, street children, out-of-school youth and women in crisis. To register, log on to www.kpbdrun.com or call 725-9999.

Marian events

The praying of the Holy Rosary will start the Day of Prayer, in honor of Our Lady of All Nations, on May 27 at 4 p.m. at the Holy Family Chapel in Vista Hills, Carmelville. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Fidito Ignacio, SJ, at 5:30 p.m.

Missionaries of Mary will hold a Marian Encounter Seminar at the STF Tan Yan Kee Student Center today at 7 a.m. Holy Mass at 4 p.m. by Fr. Benny Asuncta, OP.

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IN THIS ISSUE
■ Divers' bittersweet rediscovery of Capones /H1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Culture appointee sells bling–at arts meeting

THE CULTURAT ARE TELLING about what a new board member of a culture body did in their first meeting. He tried to sell jewelry to fellow board members.

Offered the bling, one member politely declined by saying, "I'm happy with my studs."

It will be remembered that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed midnight appointments to culture positions, replacing many culture narrators, including National Museum director Cora Alonzo, Cultural Center of the Philippines chair Emily Abrera, members of the CCP board, Tanduay Calamayo, who was head of the National Museum Foundation, and other members of the foundation.

Many, including Calamayo, were caught by surprise by this presidential act that has been called "midnight manuever" in the arts and culture circle. A board member was already on his way to the meeting when he received a call informing him he had just been replaced.

A culture insider claimed some of these appointments were seen handwritten by the President herself, as if to emphasize the haste with which individuals identified with the administration had been appointed.

Ironically, the culture scene under the Arroyo administration has been very active. The visual arts industry has enjoyed a resurgence, thanks to the artists—especially the young artists—themselves.

But the sales of the country's arts and culture, it is hoped the midnight appointees will prove to be capable, not only of managing the arts and culture scene, but also bringing it to a higher level of democratic and grassroots participation, to finally bring us at par with the culture propagation efforts of our neighbors like Singapore.

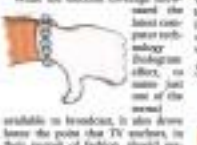
Self-pampering

Meanwhile, the culturats are talking about a sighting in a department store in Greenhills a few days after the election, after he had rewarded to from runner Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, presidential candidate Manny Villar was said to have been seen in a dermatologist's clinic.

After the signs and stress of the presidential campaign, this youthful-looking candidate indeed deserves some self-pampering and rejuvenation.

Hologram, holy knees!

While the election coverage drew



the latest computer technology (hologram effect, to name just one of the many) available in broadcast, it also drew home the point that TV workers, in their pursuit of fashion, should perhaps remember the basics of style.

While you were distracted by the sight of virtual images that popped in and out on the screen, your eyes couldn't but wander to the busy knees of women broadcasters in tailored skirts. The tailored look would have been sleek except for one thing—the skirt length. Remember the rule (even if today's fashion is almost breaking the rules): Women above 40 shouldn't cut their hem above the knee...unless you're Imelda Cojuangco, who can get away with it. The elegant length for mature women skims the knee. If not covers it.

Slim's exhibit ends

The acclaimed Jim's retrospective exhibit at National Museum ended last week. It was a most successful run, drawing not only the fashionistas

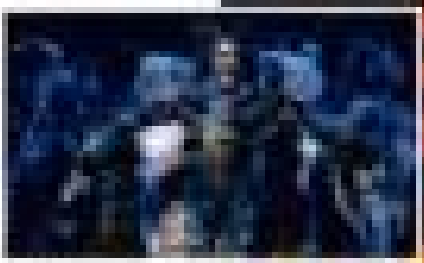
CULTURO /2A

SEASON Extended

CA

Lea purr-fectly at home a

THE INTERNATIONAL THEATRICAL PHENOMENON OPENS IN MANILA JULY 2018



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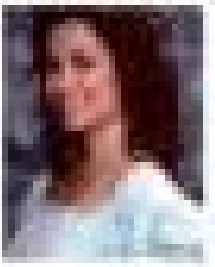
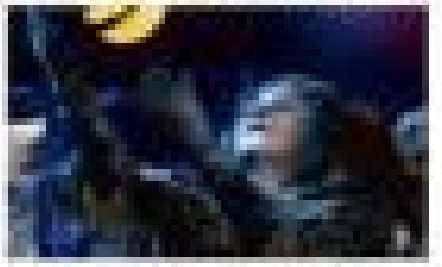
Lea, the Glamorous Grizabella





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Culture appointee sells bling–at arts meeting

From page B1

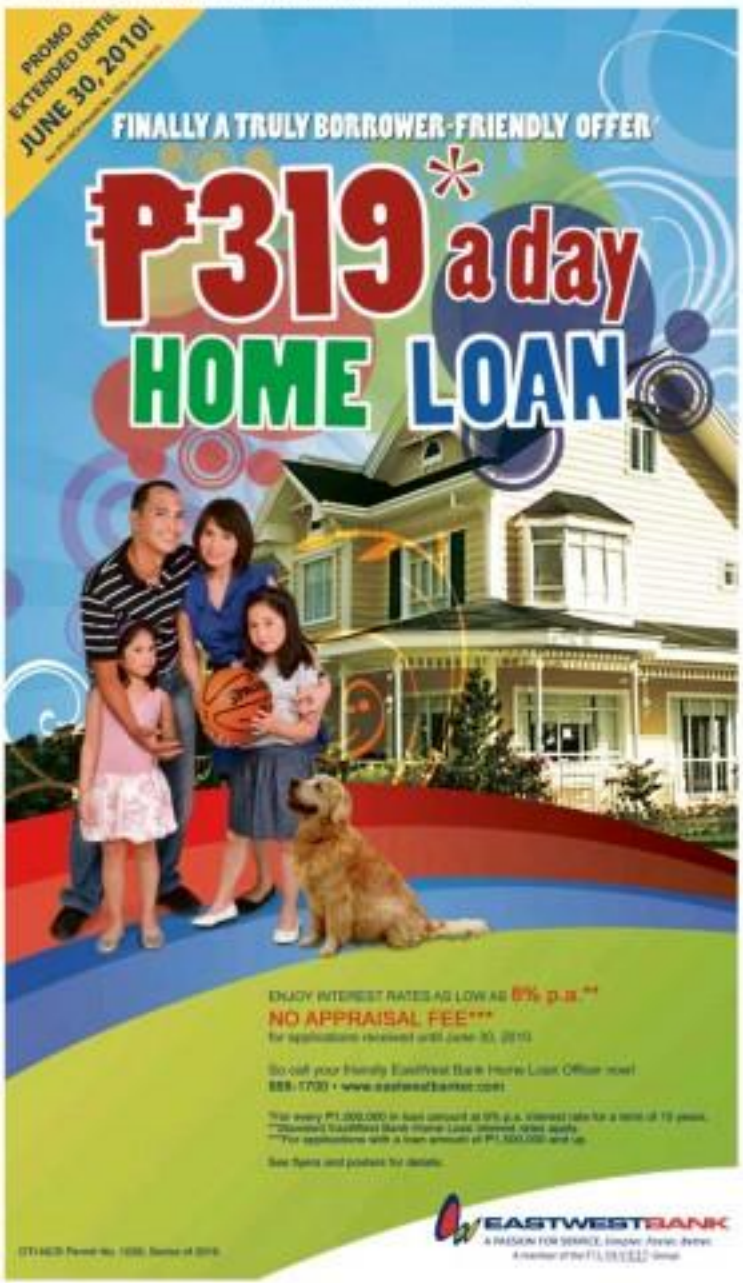
and regular museum-goers, but also design students, even people from all walks of life who had heard of it.

The world-class quality of the exhibit truly made the Filipinos proud. It proved that our museum shows could be a big draw, even for tourists.

Many are wondering what will happen now for the rest of the year at the National Museum. Will the museum calendar set to the previous administration of Gma Arroyo be followed?

Proof that the beautiful lyrics and evening were in the Glan's exhibit were indeed talk of the town happened one night, over dinner, of longtime friends who hadn't been together for years. They were all guys and gays. But the one or two gays in the group were turned off by a friend who was, as they say, so "pa-macho."

The gay at the dinner turned to the flaming macho gay and said: "Why don't you check out the Glan's exhibit? One or two artists there should look good on you."



Meet Dora the Explorer and friends on May 29

NICKELODEON'S DIVE-IN MOVIE will be held May 29, 3-6 p.m. at the West block of Bonifacio High Street at The Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. Entrance is free.

All kids and kids-at-least are invited to come to their explorers' outfit to go on the ultimate adventure – by land, water and sea. They can roll away on a private adventure at the Tree House Lagoon, meet animals at Jungleville, and feel the rush of flying at Airventure. There will be lots of games, prizes and surprises for everyone plus Nickelers will get to meet their "hola!" favorites, their best friend Boots and cousin Diego. For more information about this summer adventure, log on to www.nickelodeonsunparkresort.ph.

Silva at the mall

Steven Silva, Ultimate Male Survivor of "Starhunt V," will perform today, 4 p.m., at the 2nd level Activity Area of Starmall Edsa-Shaw.

FrontRunner mag now available

Multi-titled veteran runner and former national team member Emmanuela Sobral is on the cover of FrontRunner magazine's June issue. Also featured are recent Philippines visitor and world marathon record holder Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia, Ray Wilson Bello of Mizuno and the 102-km Bataan Death March and tips for first time 42K runners. A product of Hardcore Publishing Inc., FrontRunner magazine comes out bi-monthly and is available at all branches of National Bookstore, Fully Booked and Booksale. It's S.E. at Bonifacio High Street in Taguig, and beyond West, across Ortigas and Session City. For subscriptions and advertising inquiries, call 9748228/ 9403871/ 8809419/ 8901600/ 8911600/ 8000804.

Bikini showdown

Heatwave 2010 Summer Bikini Showdown will have a pre-pageant on May 22, 1 p.m. at Cuidad Bar & Restaurant of Starmall Edsa-Shaw and May 29, 7 p.m. at Activity Hub of Starmall Las Piñas. Grand finals will be on June 10, 7 p.m. at open parking of Starmall Las Piñas. Admission is free.

Bodybuilding tilt

Mr. Gym Plus Bodybuilding Competition grand finals will be held May 29 at 3/L Activity Center of Starmall Edsa-Shaw.

Mall festivities

Starmall has an ongoing Mabilis/Sosy Sale until June 2. Pilipino Pinoy sa Food-court is ongoing until June 30. Flores de Mayo or Santacruzan will be held today at Starmall Las Piñas and May 30, Starmall Edsa-Shaw. Star of the dance floor contest monthly finals will be held May 29 at Starmall Las Piñas.

Bayanihan's search for new faces

Bayanihan announces the deadline of its ongoing search for New Faces on May 28. Call Michelle Garcia at 5346056/ 5351486, or visit its office at 1163 Taft Avenue, Manila.

New garden club

With the aim of disseminating the art of gardening, the Bonsai and Suiseki Association of the Philippines Incorporated launches the 1st Mindy Mangkormo Bonsai and Suiseki Cup, Flower and Garden Show on June 26-July 11 at Boscon Memorial Circle, Filipinas Road, Cavite City. Call David Cua at 0911-4161288.

Workshoppers' exhibit in Intramuros

"Art Art Exhibit," a collection of works by summer workshop students of Galeria de las Islas (3/F, Bibliotheca Building, 1166 San Lucas St., Intramuros, Manila; call 5272113) is on view until May 29. The exhibit will showcase the students' best works, ranging from sculptures to portraits rendered in varied textures of cubism. The workshop was conducted by artist Kris Jan Gavino.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Bea Zobel Jr.–her world /F2

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Fancy hands for happy soles

On its 5th year, Make Your Own Havaianas had 8,000 flip-flops fanatics lining up to make 11,000 pairs with celebrity stylists

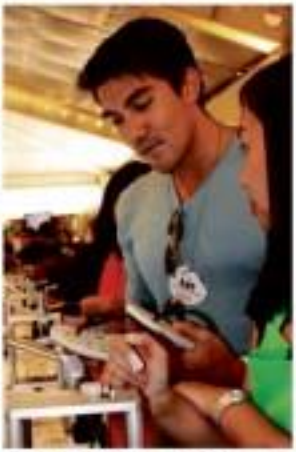
By Chesha V. Moral

HAVAIANATICOS, that swiftly growing breed of Brazilian flip-flops-crazy, I'd-rather-go-barefoot-if-it's-not-Havaianas tribe, marked another milestone as the brand held the fifth Make Your Own Havaianas (MYOH) event on April 22-26.

The unique and exclusive affair had over 8,000 Havaianas devotees lining up in the Rockwell Tent in Power Plant Mall, Makati to customize their pair—well, multiple pairs for some, as the organizers logged close to 11,500 pairs at the end of the

MYVH Andi Manzano in his hair head at customizing a pair.

MODEL Brent Javier keeps busy



ACTOR Luis Manzano gives a commemorative pair a once-over.

working installation.

On its fifth consecutive year, Havaianas Philippines had vowed to make this one-over better than the last.

"We always endeavor to improve Make Your Own Havaianas every year. This year, we went all out," said Anne Gonzalez, managing director of Havaianas Philippines.

Read year's MYOH wore Pinoy with decorative print that paid homage to local culture—fanners, vinta and jeepneys—this time, Gonzalez and Co. went to have thought, "If it's not enough to wear a pair you personally designed, how about one that's co-created with your favorite celebrity?"

And that was how Luis Manzano, Lui Cabrido, the Magalona siblings, Drew Arellano, Brent Javier, Andi Manzano, Rovilson Fernandez, Marcel Laus-Pangilinan and family, and fashion icons Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Tim Yap came in for celebrity styles for MYOH.

This year's MYOH also featured a commemorative sole and pin, its design that of hand signals that spell out "MYOHHH."

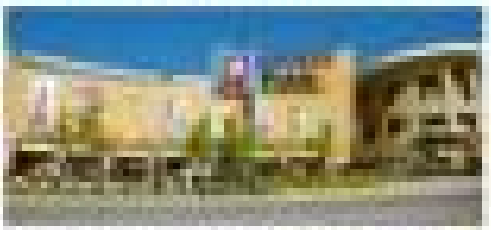
MYOH is a singular Havaianas concept that was introduced here in 2006 to enable the brand's growing following to create their own pair by mixing and matching soles and straps, its first outing made such an impression that, on its second year, it

continuation on page E3

‘Staycation’: Staying at home wh

“Travel, once the privileged few, has become a great commodity,” says critic pundit Stephen Badger. “The luxurious sport now is the days at home.”

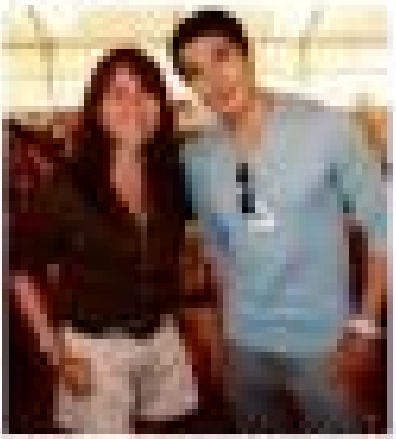
The release spirit of the most interesting ones is reflected in its big new mall



Delightful Dumaguete

ile vacationing

Fancy hands for happy soles



CITY BEAUTIFUL EXHIBIT AT THE SM SUPERMALLS

Historical Lingayen

Text and photos by Amadio Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

SOME 260 KM FROM MANILA, Lingayen, the capital of Pangasinan, is a laid-back town along the Lingayen Gulf, with a stately Provincial Capitol built in 1918, a Veterans Memorial Park, a cathedral with a phalanx of vinsaire bells in its courtyard, a public beach and light aircraft.

The mountains are on the western part of the province.

In the park, which faces the Capitol and the gulf, are reminders of World War II: a Japanese fighter plane (another plane was destroyed during a storm), two Japanese tanks and a US cannon.

The Capitol opens up to a large rooftop deck with a sweeping view of the environs. Balls were perhaps held here, under the stars, during olden days.

Flashback

On Nov. 7, during the first American invasion, US Gen. Lloyd Wheaton arrived on Lingayen Gulf to rout off President Emilio Aguinaldo's retreat to the north.

Four decades later, on Jan. 9, 1945, with World War II coming to a close, US Gen. Walter Krueger landed on Lingayen Gulf and met no opposition. In the next few days, 203,000 men were transported to the battle with the Japanese (who were no longer there).

Poor Krueger has been forgotten by history and it is the publicity-conscious Gen. Douglas MacArthur who got all the credit for the Lingayen landings. He arrived a few days later at Dagupan Beach, and was joyously received by the people.

Earlier the Filipino guerillas had sent a message to the Americans that they would meet no opposition on the beach. Nevertheless, the GI Command ordered one group—identified only as Oldado—to bombard Lingayen and flush out the enemy.

SWIMMING POOL at El Puerto Marina, Lingayen, Pangasinan

Leaflets were dropped urging the population to leave the urban areas. The Lingayens was bombed, resulting in the destruction of public buildings and in many wounded and dead. When Krueger's men landed, they found that the guerrillas were right; the Japanese had fled.

Costly liberation

It was a costly liberation indeed for the people of Lingayen, as it would be for the people of Manila the following month.

All this documented in the impressive exhibit at the Veterans Memorial Park, with its capricious movies-and-rain, fifteen-cup phones, including one of Japanese Lt. Gen. Shuichiro Homma being saluted and smilingly greeted by his men.

Lingayen is a four-hour drive from northern Metro Manila via the North Expressway and the Cumbling, Tarlac route) in a private vehicle and if traffic is light. It has three major resorts: Cosquelo Hotel, which has a convention hall; Capitol, and El Puerto Marina Beach Resort & Spa, owned by Rolando and Pilar Sesmsa. Of the three, the latter is your best bet.

El Puerto Marina, its extensive parkmodel by Romero, lies beside a forest-like area filled with trees of various species. It has bamboo cottages on stilts overlooking a dark-green pond where ducks swim, quaint hotel rooms, bar and restaurant, swimming pool, beach area with picnic huts and a fishing alley among other amenities.

Cottages from Metro Manila hold room building structures here. Sports facilities include kayaks, skit boards, surf boards, pedal boats, floaters, all aweaits water, volleyball, billiards, darts and board games.

The swimming pool area has a dolphin ring can like a scooper from a monumental, mish-like façade, and a kiddie pool which doubles up as a cool jacuzzi. You can relax here at night, ease your tired muscles and, hands supporting your head, contemplate the universe.

WORLD WAR II Japanese tank at Lingayen Veterans Memorial Park

US CANNON at Veterans Memorial Park

VIEW from the Lingayen Capitol with the gulf in the background

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Beauty, tranquility, the good life—Italian-style

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

FROM THE EXTERIOR, THE Italian ambassador's residence is in a neo-traditional style, built with modern materials but suffused with historic features such as shutters to exude a nostalgic aura.

The inside is enormous, obviously designed for entertaining. There are various seating areas for conversation, among them, a white-themed sala. We were told that the furniture and accessories of the new Italian ambassador, Luca Fornari and his wife Silvana, had just arrived three days before the press meetings.

On the morning of the interviews, the couple personally arranged their space to make it homey.

Silvana is tomb-like lanai, looking cool in a dust-mouse-grayed summer mini amid the wicker furniture. A room beyond is filled with furniture and accessories waiting to be categorized. Silvanas explains that soon would carry a Persian theme.

Fornari arrives from a meeting and changes his collared shirt to a casual tunic. Meanwhile, Silvana adds dark trousers under her dress. She says she used to wear the suits in the '80s. The cultural attaché and this writer urge her to show off her sleek gams. She is not sure, though, if it is age-appropriate or against protocol to be wearing a short skirt. Nonetheless, she concedes upon our persuasion.

Why not? She's trendy 5'8" and has long legs. Her dress was made by Lisa Corti from Tanzania who designs her own fabrics.

Fornari looks at her high heels. "Sometimes, I have to look up to her. She's so high up. She has these incredible heels that count for over 20 centimeters. Literally 8 inches! high," he exclaims. "But I can still put my arms around her without any problem."

He adds: "I choose her dresses."

"He always comes with me," Silvana rejoins. Fornari enjoys shopping for his wife. One of her favorite gifts was a bag, flowing, pastel dress which she wore at the launch of the Gyms Hermitres cruise onboard the Italian ship. (The brand is a store because it's not Italian.)

ITALIAN Ambassador Luca and Silvana Fornari

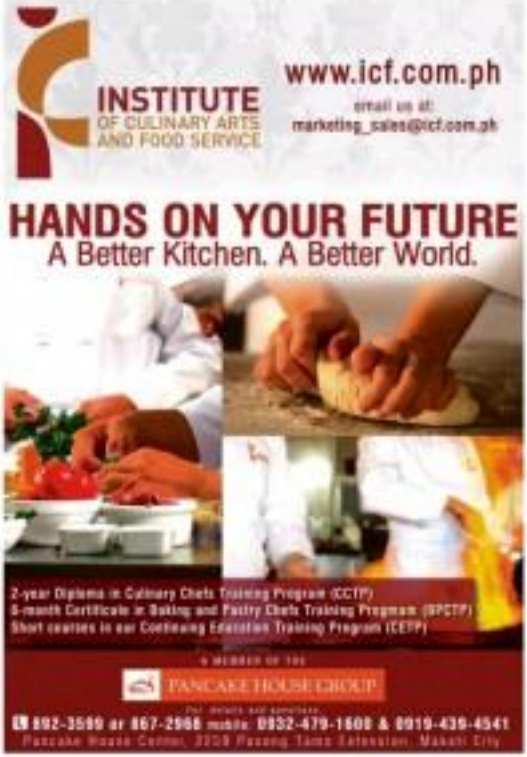
The couple have taken to 'adobo' and 'kangkong,' mango and 'lanzones'

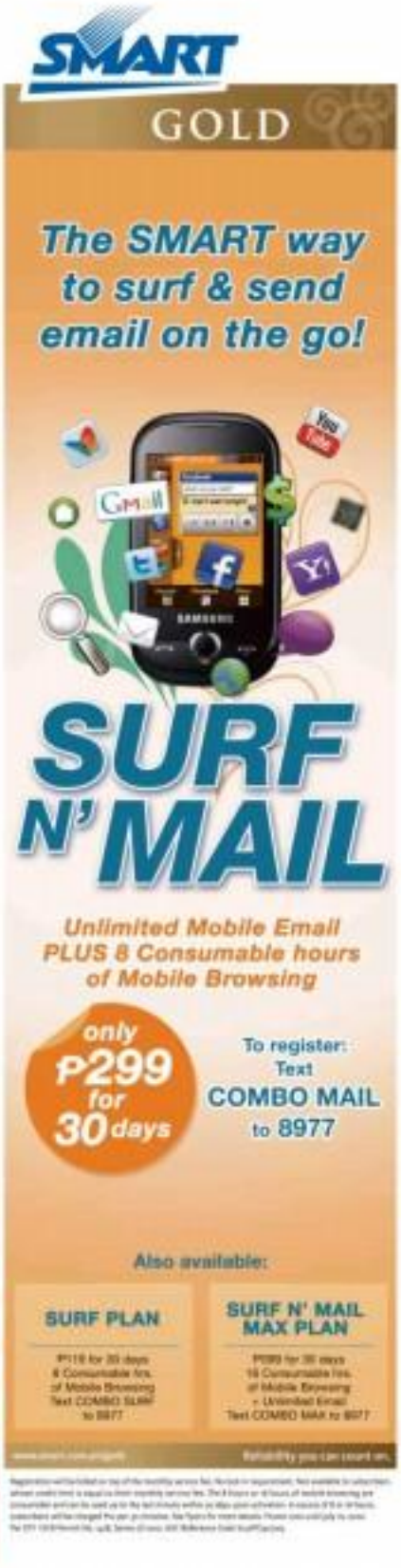
Foodies

The Fornaris had just arrived last March 1 and have been enjoying every minute. Fornari, 64, has endured nearly 40 years of diplomatic service. His foreign postings include serving as the secretary in Ankara, Saudi Arabia; at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations in New York; as consul general in the Consulate of Lubumbashi, Zaire, now in five countries in Tehran, Iran.

For nearly 20 years, he worked at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2005, he was appointed diplomatic counselor of the Italian minister for regional affairs and local autonomies. His last post was minister plenipotentiary, a complicated title which simply means coordinating matters on cultural policies of the European Union under the Italian MFA.

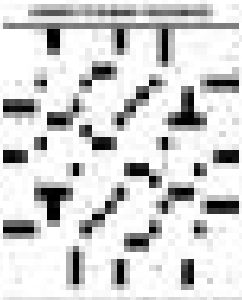
Fornari says a diplomat needs some 100 days to settle into a new country. "Now, I'm



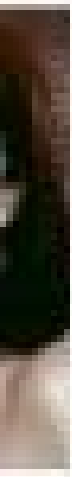


Bea Zobel Jr.—her world

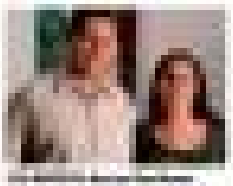
Beauty, tranquility, the good life—Italian-style



Cannes's Kaapra Festival features challenge



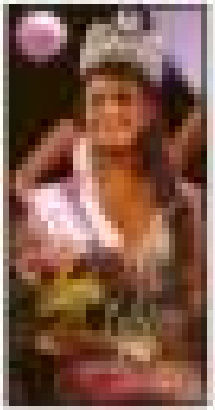
Great Zodiac makeup is back in Manila



Vitamin D as important as calcium in fighting osteoporosis, says expert

...g sports activities

Winners World International's Miss Global Philippines 2018 Grand Winner, Princess Rochelle only 1st runner-up in Miss Global International 2018



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Iron Man Meet & Greet
May 30
11:30AM • 2:00PM • 5:00PM
at the 4F Annex Event Area

Meet and greet Tony Stark's alter ego as he flies into the Annex as the infamous Iron Man. Watch him bring bad guys down to size and meet the superhero in person!

IRON MAN 2

Shrek Forever After Meet & Greet
May 27 10:00AM onwards
at The Block

Everyone's favorite fairytale ogre comes crashing into The Block this May. Get to meet him and shake his rather large hand as he talks all about his upcoming 3-D flick.

SHREK FOREVER AFTER

The Company
Album Tour
May 23, 5:00PM
at The Block

The soaring voices of The Company have yet another album to add to their spectacular roster. Listen as they promote it while giving the crowd a taste of their melodies.

Hello Kitty drops by The Block to give a fun seminar about the upcoming school year! From face painting to study tips, a photo op and an arts & crafts crash course, meet the world's cutest kitten and watch her turn school into something cool!

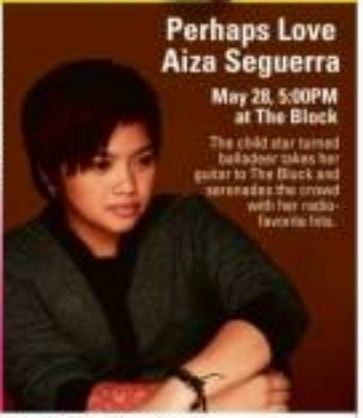
School Is Cool with

Hello Kitty

May 29-30, 1:00PM to 6:00PM
at The Block

Perhaps Love Aiza Seguerra
May 28, 5:00PM
at The Block

The child star turned balladeer takes her guitar to The Block and serenades the crowd with her radio-favorite hits.



The Big Grill Festival
May 28-30 at the SkyGarden

A hefty serving of good food, matched with good company on the side, no other event could be as decadently delightful! Participating restaurants will set up their individual stations, treating passersby to the ultimate sensory experience. Dig in, only at the SkyGarden.

SM city NORTH EDSA

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Girl in the bubble bath

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

STORY on page D4

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Live well. Live right.

Slow by slow

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

Mercedes coach is closely scored
Mercedes soldiers ever feared
Mostly what I need from you.
—Billy Joel

WITH A NEW PRESIDENT taking in the harbors, I am inspired to add my own tiny pebble to the reconstruction of our values that have been so plundered, to face Jesse Jr Country estate. Did Bunoy has written about a nurse hassle that has irritated us forever—learning to stand in line properly. There are so many ways by which the jobs has been subverted. Chel's experiences have to do with supermarket and theater lines. Let me add mine.

I was part of a queue on the Express Lane of SM Supermarket. Ahead of me was a smart little man. In her cart were 15 cans of Pedi and Boston, two cartons of eggs and one papaya. "Honey," I reminded her, pointing to the sign that read 5 Items or Less, "this won't go in heaven if you don't obey that sign."

She quickly shot back. "If you're buying all of the same kind of item, no matter how many, it is counted as one." Rabbi me great! I looked to the cashier for help. Of course she didn't want any trouble. She was a casual, air-craved mother, the role bread winner (they always are). Her team's gonna appeal to the management for non-bagging anyway. I just had to save in my own life.

Another in our neighborhood, the cast where Capitol Medical Center meets the two streets behind must be the most congested. One casual day a taxi is waiting on the curb of a bakeshop in front of the hospital. Cars are piling up behind us but the cab driver is deaf to all the honking.

I ask the driver why he isn't budging and he says angrily that he is waiting for his passenger who had only gone down to buy a cake, *sandali lang!* Later when I recounted the incident to my husband, he upbraided me! "Ma," he said, "the next time you put your head out of that car window to complain, someone might shoot it off."

At the confessional

Don't expect sympathy, much less find comrades like yourself. I had a similar experience when I was still going to Blues. Trying to atone for my sins, I went to confession on a Holy Thursday. I joined a queue that snaked to the door. To no surprise, the chic matron ahead of me broke out of the line and inserted herself between two meek devotees who were only a few paces away from the confessional. I strode to the lady and reminded her calmly that her correct place was right ahead of me.

The woman looked disdainfully down her nose and frowned off to the sacristy. Ten minutes later, she was back. She had a development in tow. He opened a new confession. I was impressed. May pakiramdam din pala sa langit! Nevertheless to say that was my last attempt at confession.

Still I did not learn. Next was novelties. In the early '70s there were no professional gurus yet, only UP had a good exercise class. If you wanted to hang on the bars alongside 36-year-olds, I decided to attend the Jane Fonda aerobics of Vicki Belo in her house in Forbes Park (!) instead. She was only a college student then and that was her primary

Vicki's aerobics

Vicki was a cutie teacher who brushed no inconvenience. She paid attention to each of us. (That is why I am very begging of her indulgences. I like people who do a job well.) Eventually, substitution clubbiness and sports cloths (some my house too, began to affect aerobic classes (your treadmill and blind treasures).

Only much later did real guru with professional equipment and personnel open in malls (malls were then also low). How happy we plump housewives were to enroll in the latest one! It had a receptionist, a lady manager and two telephones. There was a dressing room and two bathrooms. We thought we were in heaven!

But our idea of the bathroom luxuries leaked. We just a few drops but a puddle. At that time, there was a frightful drought going on in the city. The papers were full of dire warnings of the drying up of dams. One public official, in fact, dared suggest that toilets be flushed only after every three uses, bringing upon his head the ire of the chaste patriotic ire, of course, I opened the leak.

The next week, however, the faucet was still dribbling. Did you report the leak? I asked the receptionist. "Yes ma'am," she said. "They said they'd look after it." I decided to write a letter of this misdemeanor. The next time I went, the lady manager came out to greet me and say they were looking after the matter.

Nothing happened. The whole city was suffering a water crisis and all our modern gym needed was one miserable washer! It was exasperating. "Make sure it's fixed before the Christmas break," I said, "when all of you go away." "Surely, ma'am," the lady manager replied cheerily.

Plumbers

When I came back in January the faucet was still leaking! It had been leaking all through the holidays! I called for the lady manager. "Ma'am they will can't find a plumber," she explained apologetically. I reached for the thick telephone directory on the counter and flipped it open to the yellow pages. "There! That's a long list of plumbers," I said. "Call one right now."

"The management needs to approve it first," the woman said. "Call one anyway and I'll pay for it," I said. Before she could reply though, a shot of maroon came in through the glass door swishing in mind. Awkward, the lady manager turned her attention to them.

That was before Martial Law. I don't know if the military finally stuffed up that leak or if it remained leaking for the rest of Martial Law. Because I had decided that it was beneath me to survive at home.

My rich girl friends lived in splurge. Once she wanted to go to her private hangar to an airport. She brought me along in her sports car and we roared through the traffic. The guard wouldn't let us in because the large her pass and she couldn't find it. We went through. Electronic barriers had not yet been invented. My girl friend promptly smashed her car through the flimsy *se-mini-caldera* wooden side and laughed her head off. That was power!! I eventually recognized that kind in the whole country too. I hated it.

'Mrs. Fernando'

Soon I also got tired of being apprehended for an imagined traffic violation by some policeman hiding in the shadows of an overpass. "You were through a red light," the cop says. "Bilihin na ba," my clever reply. "Give me your license," the cop demands. "Ano ba ang gagawin mo?"

"Huwag kang mag-inhu," I must order my friends as my driver brings his license out of his wallet. "Bata naman!" "I mean," during the cop, "who be ang pangalan mo?" "Bong," he replies. "Bakit ba ako ang napa-para mo, samantalang ang jacket," He sees his jacket and I read his surname aloud. "Mong pinto ito? At bakit ka naka-dalim ng ating dalin *magkakakabad bahay* na ang mga ito sa kalsada?"

"Ah, hayo," he mutters, "ano ulit ba ang pangalan niyo?" Fair enough. "Ulitin," I say. "Apelyido?" he insists. "Mrs. Fernando ako," I say.

"Ay naku!" he says, suddenly all flustered and apologetic. "Di ko po alam! Pasensya na po kayo. Di ko akalaing kamag-anak kayo ni MMDA Chief." I mean, I'm not even remotely related to our exterior nor does he know I exist. But I do not correct the poor policeman because I am already very late for my hair's appointment.

I am ashamed of myself. Power is beauty even if it is only over some hungry cop. Mr. Noynoy, you president have a start with such a package of worms (not even counting the pythons and the cobras). Let's you and the wish him nerves of steel and the nerves ending lots of our people.

THE FIT 'n FAB 4 BIGGEST LOSERS REVEALED

First Place Winner Team Glitch of UST

Last April 17, a number of the city's teams flocked to Fairview for the culmination of the Fit 'n Fab 4 Weight Loss Challenge by Del Monte Fit 'n Right Fruit Snacks. During the 6-week night, guests were treated to another day-to-day battle with Del Monte Fit 'n Right Fruit Snacks and a exciting program hosted by Karen Formentera and Bryan Javier.

From 24 batches of four students, the 5 winners had face-to-face that night and their calorie-burning race to become the biggest loser was revealed to all. Each team was given a month to achieve the bodies they've always wanted for the summer. The only food they had to survive on was Del Monte Fit 'n Right Fruit Snacks and exercise were the order of the day. Del Monte Fit 'n Right Fruit Snacks are a exciting program hosted by Karen Formentera and Bryan Javier.

From 24 batches of four students, the 5 winners had face-to-face that night and their calorie-burning race to become the biggest loser was revealed to all. Each team was given a month to achieve the bodies they've always wanted for the summer. The only food they had to survive on was Del Monte Fit 'n Right Fruit Snacks and exercise were the order of the day. Del Monte Fit 'n Right Fruit Snacks has a SNACK! brittle, your usual high-calorie snacks. Del Monte Fit 'n Right Fruit Snacks is the only snack that only has 35 calories, and contains... combine that keeps you on track to achieve the body you've always wanted.

When the big batches volunteered down the calorie-burning time was on. For them, the club began to fill self-over-over chairs and whistles from friends and supporters. Cast in Fit 'n Fab 4 sent tops and sexy swimwear. It was easy to see that all the contestant had worked just paid off.

Finally, the real important part of the night arrived. The big revelation. Third place went to the Red Hot Amoebas de Manila University, second place went to the Fit 'n Fab Five from UST and the First place went to a group of musicians, who not only shape the same lose for more but also shape the same beautiful body bodies. Team Glitch from UST. Romper Gerard Rogers, Jasper John Amanes, Ron Valentin Tomas Isaac Peralta and Sebastian Bautista collectively lost 49 kilos in just 4 weeks.

When asked about their slimming secret strategy, Team Glitch revealed that their transition is day during the mornings and afternoons. They never left their homes without carrying bags of Fit 'n Right Fruit Snacks. Most importantly, their number one strategy was to have fun as they support each other on their weight-loss journey. While having fun, they lost 49 kilos together, and won the Fit 'n Fab 4 Weight Loss Challenge. They bagged extra bonuses by bronze, and the 50,000 to their chosen organization. Not bad for the biggest bunch of losers.

2 Israeli pianists give rousing performances in Cebu

HIS EXCELLENCY MICHAEL TAREL, AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL TO the Philippines, and the Aboitiz Israeli Honorary Consul in the Visayas Emily Benedicto Dinnocenzo, presented a duo piano recital by two young talented Israeli artists—Yaron Goldberg and Shahaf Hanoch.

The event also marked the Jury Concert and the Manila Polo Pluzza Hotel, whose ballroom served as excellent venue. The artists, as well as the ambassador and his embassy staff, were all billeted at the Manila Polo.

Preceding the recital was a diplomatic reception to mark the 62nd anniversary of the State of Israel. Fine Israeli wine, red and white, was served, and used during the toasts led by Ambassador Tarel.

Sharing the dais with him were Ayo Consul general Rotem Gavrin, Honorary Consul Emily Dinnocenzo, and her husband Samuel Dinnocenzo, who is Honorary Consul of Portugal in Cebu, and current president of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

ILLINDA Barrows-Israeli Consul's photo session in Cebu

Cebu Cebu

Jeanne Picornell

Ambassador Tarel recognized the valuable assistance graciously given by Dana Hauer, general manager of the Manila Polo. He also said there would be more cultural events in the future, to which Israel intends to "bring the best."

The elegant award was then called to lead their steps to the ballroom, and join the rest of the assembled guests, who filled up the hall to a point where more chairs had to be added.

Two grand pianos, of equal size and sound, were put up on a riser in the midst of the ballroom. Nearly one more step to the spotlight as he went up to thank the audience for their presence and introduce the Israeli Embassy HEs. Yaniv Rokach, Deputy Chief of Mission; Consul Wai Shalhi; and Nesmel Markovich, Chief of Security. They sat with him in the front row together with Pr Sofia Villarica, founder of the Arts Council, which hosted the recital.

"This is the best we can do," said Ambassador Tarel, "present art." There was much applause to that, sustained by the audience as the young pianists mounted the stage, and took their places at their assigned pianos.

One piano belongs to the Jury Council, while the other is owned by a supporter (in case you shall remain anonymous, for whose magnanimity) has been duly appreciated.

The first number had Yaron and Shahaf performing "Concerto for Two Pianos," by Dmitri Shostakovich. Next was "Carpenella," by Pietro Lanz, played very excitedly by Hanoch.

Yaron and Goldberg were together on the same piano for "Pastorale for Piano Four Hands," by Franz Schubert. It was then Yaron's turn to play solo. He chose two works by Frederic Chopin—"Revolutionary Etude" and "Winter Wind", and one by Robert Schumann—"Traumerei."

The finale was Daniel Mihaelch "Scaramouche" in the composer's own version of a suite for two pianos. The "Brazileira" at the end made some in the audience cringe with the urge to dance to the samba.

The audience went wild with applause as the artists left the stage, but a standing ovation and more applause called them back for an encore. What they played was sheer delight—the second movement—andante—from Mozart's "Sonata for 2 Pianos in D Major."

'Adobo' challenge

After the concert, the artists, Ambassador Tarel, his embassy staff and some officers of the Arts Council were dinner guests of Ayo Consul Rotem Gavrin at a private area of Chef Rodel's Café Marco. Other concert goers also went to Café Marco to sample the food festival that had opened that very day—the Great Adobo Challenge.

Four excellent chefs had been flown in by the Marco Polo and for three days, during lunch and dinner, prepared their own version of adobo, one of the national dishes of the Philippines.

There was an opening ceremony in most area, with Yaniv doing the proper introductions. But where were the four chefs? They soon burst into the scene, literally crashing through their glorious on a huge paper billboard-sized apparatus.

Glenda Barretto of Inquirer, offering her **adobo of pancetta with crab fat sauce**; Danny de la Cruz of Cebu with Sir Loong "**adobong baguio**", **Myrna Segismundo of Batangas with crab**, roots adobo; and Nancy Reyes of the Taping region with her "**Lipunan sa Adobo.**"

It was Nancy's adobo that won the day, as after the **explained how she mela all the fat from duck** pork, an array of white-clad kitchen staff came with a cake. The song was sung, the candle blown, and everyone rushed to the buffet.

Aside from Yaniv, also present were the Marco Polo officers: John Wong, Luis Constantino; **sales managers Cheryl Ann Bautista and Rachel Stephen Pilapil, Ash Pangan, Aileen Quijano, Belle Lumapas and Aisha Cenich.**

Also present were Bobi and Jessica Avila, **adviser to Marco Polo in matters of Philippine** cuisine, Bob Sambrado, who was in town, **joined the group and made things even livelier.** He had come for the birthday of his mother who passed away a few days later at the age of 93.

MARCO Polo GM Hans Hauer (center) with Israeli pianists Shahaf Hanoch (left) and Yaron Goldberg (right)

A unique way of gift-giving!

Chupa Chups proudly introduces its limited edition Chupa Chups Gift Pouch! If you are looking for a unique and special gift for your loved ones, this special Chupa Chups offer is best for you. The well-loved lollipops come in an exceptionally catchy holder. All 28 pieces come in various flavors to satisfy the sweet craving of candy lovers of all ages. Why not give a Chupa Chups gift pack to your loved ones today? You can now get them at selected SM Supermarkets, Hypermarts, Waltermart and Shakey Bar/lounge stores until supply lasts.

LOCATION IS AS LOCATION DOES

What are the three most abused words in the English language? It's no longer "I Love You" as people say it less and less. It's not "Now And Improved" which manufacturers have replaced with Advanced Chemistry terms. And it's never again going to be "Place Stamp Here" for obvious reasons.

No, these days it's "Location, Location, Location." At least for home buyers. Maybe it's time to qualify that old axiom.

Anybody who's been in a carpool, luckily living space squeezed in between traffic-choked bus stops, nice malls and industrial sites knows that a location can be too accessible. Anybody who's watched their tree-lined village turn into restaurant row knows that a location lures and dies by the quality of its neighbours. Anybody who's fallen in love with a towering bay view and woken up with leaky windows knows that location, even said thing, is zero as good as the building it supports.

A good location gets better. When a city refreshment does it optimally. When even its future integrity is planned for. When both users and resources prosper in health.

Consider then Arya Residences, to rise in Bonifacio Global City as a synergy of location and development. Conceived and designed to be the country's first and only residential building working towards LEED® Gold Certification, its developers, ArthaLand, chose the community most equipped for green sustainability. BGC has the infrastructure to provide potable and recycled water separately. Arya Residences will install dual piping to deliver both to every unit. BGC provides centralized gas. Arya has it piped safely into every kitchen. Its location enables Arya's goal of sustainability. Arya Residence's thoughtful design optimizes its location.

Consider too the ideal balance of accessibility and separateness. Bonifacio Global City is an easy 10-minute drive to the Makati CBD, EDSA and C-5 to the North, and the Skyway/Expressway to the South. It is equally accessible by way of shuttle buses and public transport. Arya Residences sits comfortably in this new business and social hub. But not too also, strangely enough, an island away from the crowd. In triangle bounded by McKinley Parkway, 8th Avenue and 40th Drive in the quieter residential area of BGC, the property enjoys unobstructed views, free-flowing breezes and three imposing facades. No back side, no adjacent buildings. Simply spacious, with a dominant address and a floor plan, for residents and visitors respectively.

Consider, finally, the purest joys of seclusion and community. Bonifacio Global City is masterplanned to integrate business, commercial, civic, culture and leisure activities. Tech-capable buildings (smart, energy efficient powerpoint, lighting and restaurants (of next to playgrounds, schools and health facilities enjoy open spaces and clean air. Almost everything is a short walk or ride away. Arya Residences puts you in the middle — and the spirit — of it all. But it can also be your own personal cocoon. Arya Residences' two Towers are luxurious, healthful with light and air. The Terrace your rendezvous room of private parties, pools and recreation. The Plaza is a dining haven under a soaring canopy of glass. You can entertain graciously or unwind privately, without leaving your ideally located home.

Living healthfully, living sustainably, in sheerest community, in pampered privacy. Arya Residences in Bonifacio Global City. It's what location, location, location should mean.

SUSTAINABILITY BUILT INTO LUXURY AT ARYA RESIDENCES

Luxury has grown up.

Like a teen outgrowing rebellion and seeking purpose. Pursuing intelligence but doing no harm. True affluence and luxury today puts the premium on experiencing nature fully and allowing future generations to do the same.

Arya Residences will be that new luxury. Conceived and designed as a "green building", every steps in its life-cycle — from sitting to design, construction, operations and maintenance — will be certified environmentally responsible and resource-efficient. It should be no surprise that these same green measures reduce individual living costs as well. But the reduction in energy costs is matched only by the abundance of comforts. This is what it means to live well and live right.

For starters, Bonifacio Global City is the ideal place to go green. Arya Residences will tap into its dual piping and greywater facilities to optimally allocate potable and reclaimed water. It is also one of the most pedestrian-friendly communities where one can easily find strollers, runners, dog walkers and commuters aboard.

Then there are Arya Residences' two towers, creating a symmetry of curves and angles. They also minimize East-West sun exposure and channel the breeze. This constant shade and airiness pervades. Through the Plazas (for dining and shopping under a sweeping canopy up one) the residents-only Terrace—perfect for parties, pools and play. The residential units have large windows, which open up the one while keeping out heat and noise, while generous balconies and ledges and soothing shade indoors and extend space outdoors. What results from all this is a significant decrease in the energy required to cool the residences and the consequent reduction in the nature's most healthful elements even in the most urbane surroundings.

The more palpable luxuries, of course, are those we live with intimately. They also cost us, and Earth, the most to maintain. Again, Arya Residences builds in the luxury right alongside sustainability. Kitchen and bathroom fittings are water-efficient and water-conservation-knowing features. Air-conditioning units are multi-split type with an energy efficiency rating of 12 — most buildings do not even consider energy efficiency ratings. Even facilities for 100% backup power, waste segregation and fire detection will ensure safe, enviro-free living.

But these are the behind-the-scenes touches that make the subtle but telling difference. Each Arya Residences unit offers generous, well-planned spaces suited to every nuance of comfort and grace. Entertaining will be convenient and unhampered; privacy where needed is assured. There are thoughtful provisions for workspaces. Even the fixtures, fittings and finishings are materials that are unerringly luxurious but also recycled, rapidly renewable, non-toxic to man or planet.

Life at Arya Residences will be testament not only to the necessity but the desirability of sustainable design. Behold it in the newly-formed veteran team of developers, ArthaLand. Its namesake is a formidable partnership of industry experts. ArthaLand has also tapped into some of the highest credentials in green building. They have in fact registered under the LEED® Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) program with a certification goal of Gold— a global standard for environmentally sustainable construction. Arya Residences is the first high-rise residential building in the country to target this standard. ArthaLand commits to being the first to achieve it.

In the very best future living well, living right, living green may be the ultimate luxury.

###

Experience a life lived well and right at Arya Residences. Visit us in our Sales Pavilion at McKinley Parkway cor. 7th Ave., Bonifacio Global City or call 895-ALCO (2526) to schedule a guided tour. Login to www.aryaresidences.com.ph for more details.

KIANA Valenciano (second from left), Gab Valenciano (right) with Shrek and friends

JIN RODRIGUEZ, Tobi Pedigan and Cat Avendaño

MEGAWORLD Chairman Tan and fiancee Hazel Op. Shrek and Donkey Bell

JOSH, Reily James and Kris Aquino-Yap

Girl in the bubble bath

TIM-TIM Bernardo and Anita Reyes and Nic Pruneda

WILMA Diaverat and daughters Sandrina and Arriana

DAPHNE Chanta Paez and daughters Sophia and Lily

CHRISTINE Jacob, Sandoval and Anh Poole, Debbie, Mina, Lois and Jolina

HANDSOME pair Adrian Swinkels and Isabella Diaz

CKC ORCHESTRA supporters Jean Marie Tan, Sea Princess, Eminent Park Hotel GM Philippe Bardonnet, Gloria Diaz, Fr. Alain Parus and Georgia Remolla

ING CHORALE at the Century Park Hotel

With summer scorching hot, if only we could bubble-bath all day

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

SUMMER IS scorching and temperatures are rowing. If only we could hang out in a bubble bath all day.

At all interior designers, I have seen the bathtub evolve, from standard rectangles to the latest stylish comely ones, with amenities to ornaments and whatnot.

At the launch of American Standard's All Club Philippines, Asia's leading bathroom products manufacturer showcased the latest innovations and styles in the bath from SM.

The Sanrose Collection has the absolute bathtubs for the city's cosmopolitan bather. The sculptured tub by designer Franco Bertoli looks so chic and relaxing—perfect for all day soaking.

All Club (www.allclub.com.ph) is an exclusive program for architects, designers and industry practitioners, where they can share interactions and industry trends. The club also offers events and discount privileges at all Wilcon outlets.

Gina Bernardo, American Standard country manager, told me that the club will be a great resource for the industry, and at a mere fee of P1 architects and designers, so I signed up at once.

Sometime enjoy swimming, and my little Athena has been doing a lot of that lately. Afterwards, she soaks in her tub covered with bubbles of Johnson's Baby Bath. The catchy ad of Jiki's "Gumilaspo" moment proves to one of her favorites.

The "Gumilaspo" promo gives discounts to enter Manila Ocean Park. It's a great way to enjoy the park's new water attraction, Aquarium. Manila's first-ever water musicals with pyrotechnics and laser imaging.

New digital 2D cinema

Athena and I enjoyed dolphin tricks with other excited kids. Lately it seems she has more social events than I do. She also caught the special advanced screening of "Monk Forever After" at the newly opened Eastwood Digital 2D Cinema at the Eastwood Mall. She was especially invited by Kevin Tan, Megaworld's soon-to-be wed big boss.

The advanced screening was one of the first worldwide premieres of the long-awaited final chapter of everyman's favorite ogre's story of love, life, and friendship. Fun times Rita Aquino and her boys were among the celebrities who also caught the preview.

Eastwood's new Digital 3D Cinema boasts state-of-the-art technology, allowing a clearer image from every seat in the house. The cinema also has all the bells'n'whistles known to man: Dolby SRD Stereo, Dolby Digital EX system and Dolby Digital 10 glasses.

More important than the techie stuff, the screens are cool and that's important in this summer heat! Tickets are only P350 and come with a member of popcorn and a drink. The Eastwood Mall has concierge services that can arrange all the civil 7000000.

Museo Pambata

If your kids enjoy "Monk" and are into animation and drawing, do send them to Museo Pambata along Roxas Boulevard.

The museum just opened a new room called "Digital Be, Gusto Ko Maging Mo" featuring illustrator pero si Reylanan," a colorful, interactive exhibit that highlights the current school of writing and illustrating books for children. The works of some of the country's well-loved writers and illustrators are interactively featured with young visitors encouraged to draw and experience their works.

The room was made possible with the support of Blue Cross, a subsidiary of the Pioneer group of insurance companies. Blue Cross publishes a comic book for kids called "Wowee Ito," the centre of a young detective series, with her friend Bonnie, solves mysteries using science facts. The comic book, now on its 10th issue, also teaches kids the value of saving and using money wisely.

Pet care and welfare

Another kid-friendly summer destination is the SM Mall of Asia. My latest discovery there is Pet Express, the Dog and Cat Shop. Kids and pet lovers will love the store's wide selection of food, snacks, pet treats, grooming essentials and even clothes for your pets.

Better still, Pet Express has an in-store clinic with veterinarian for pet consultations. It is only in a select few shops to pair pet and new for me: Berry Almeda.

As the opening, I bought my naked hound, Buzz, and met my hubby's nephew, TV host Joaquin Valdes, who brought his Labrador, Jack. Apparently, each is gifted. Pictures in Valdes's moment. The Metro Dog Run. This run boasted over 500 dogs and 500 pet lovers running for health and pet bonding.

A project of Pet Express, the Dog and Cat Shop, Safeworx Seafood I, SE, 2E and SE universe (set by Cebu by Salman-ing ambassadors spots active and Frisbee champ Sasara Clemen and her Labrador retrievers, Sophie, and transforming canines and animal welfare advocate Gail del Leon) and his menstrual bulldog, Boris.

Animal welfare groups like the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, Compassion and Responsibility for Animals (Care), the Animal Kingdom Foundation, and the Cavite Animal Welfare Society (CAWS Cavite) also participated in the event. They shared their various advocacies like the pushing for more humane treatment of animals, a rabies-free country, and more responsible pet ownership programs.

CAWS Welfare Philippines (www.caws.org) also recently held its first CAWS Golf Cup—Pets' Day a fusion, a fundraiser for animal welfare.

Guests at the gallery enjoyed the prestigious Canine Ayala Greenfields Golf Club, and aside from supporting our furry friends, got to enjoy a great lunch and raffle prizes. The proceeds of the tournament will allow CAWS to open a low-cost spay and neuter clinic, as well as fund rescue efforts for homeless and abused street animals.

Kid orchestra from Samar

From movies to animation to music, kids are like sponges when it comes to learning.

The CKC Jose Gomez Symphony Orchestra is a 60-piece band of young talented kids from Samar. Fr. Marlowe A. Bonalos, CSSR (tel. 8921-8212/149, e-mail: ckc_orchestra@yahoo.com) brought the musicians over to the Century Park Hotel for a series of concerts to raise funds for the orphanage and for the health care of older Franciscan priests.

Through the kindness of generous sponsors, like Philippine Airlines and friends from the San Antonio Parish, the orchestra was able to raise the much needed funds. The enjoyable moment of classic and modern numbers also featured two songs done by Fr. Alvin Parus.

E-mail the author at inquirermom@inquirer.com.ph.

ARCHITECT Soto and Ritchea Mainea

JAMIE Bautista

SEA PRINCESS, Princess Iris, Quenton and Aldo

PET EXPRESS opening in SM Mall of Asia. Jason Go, Rose Hernandez-Dy Lee, and SM Simone Tan, Sea Princess, Athena Valdes and Miss Cagayan

PET EXPRESS pioneers Becky Angara, Lea Bagnol and Pearl Quiñez

PET LOVER Joaquin Valdes with pet Jack and Dot Herra host Sony Yap

TOURNAMENT winners Peping Reyes-Lorenzo, Teddy Bracey, Leo Jalosjos-Lora, Rosalie Hao, Cathy Borja and other CAWA supporters

CAWA member Tenella Dimson does a commendable tee-off.

CAWA president Maury Co-Ahjileng thanks sponsors and participants.

LADIES champion Natalie Hao being awarded by Tenella Dimson

LINDI Bernardo and Sea Princess

ARCHITECTS Paolo Alcazaren and Antonyo de la Paz

KEN NG and Conrad Ong Lue

JOSHUA ALVAREZ of Blue Cove, Pia Quiterreza of Pioneer, Sea Princess and Ethan Yuson-Lim of Museo

IN THIS ISSUE
Dear Kris—and all anti-Kris /03

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Seize the deal with the country's No. 1 camera brand.
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Delighting You Always!
PowerShot A490 Php 6,990
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EOS 1000D Php 29,990

Divers' bittersweet rediscovery of Capones

We were back—but the lack of marine fauna yielded more questions than satisfaction in our dives

By Boying N. Santos-Viola
Contributor

WE HAD BARELY a day to decide on our next dive site, considering several excellent locations found north of Manila.

We finally agreed last Friday afternoon to revisit Capones Island off San Antonio in Zambales, though our dive master was hesitant about the choppy (boat-rental) services there. We managed to convince him it was worth the risk, as we experienced in our previous dive explorations.

Our dive group is composed of advanced scuba divers Ramon G. Nidgid, Bernie B. Nidgid and Mikko M. Rubio, dive masters Foxy B. Nidgid and Linda B. Santos-Viola, myself and our guest diver, Karina Fernandez—we are both scuba instructors of different agencies.

We proudly call ourselves "underskippers" (a family term, for of the muskippers or his more adapted in the rocky intertidal shores) because other than indulging our weekends underwater, we also spend time enjoying the landscape surrounding the dive sites.

Saturday, as time before noontime, Linda and I hitched a ride with Ramon and Karina. Capones is a long but diving countryside and videographer participate for initiating the preservation efforts of the whale sharks or basking in Bonsol. We met up with the rest of our group at the NLEX Pampanga Regional Area office.

After a hearty breakfast, we continued our one-three-hour journey to Zambales. We made a 30-minute stop in Subic (Beach or Subic Bay to rent several tanks, a couple of regulators, BCDs and weights. Expecting well-paved roads ahead, we didn't mind the extra load of diving equipment, which are normally do not bring when diving off a resort near the site.

This is our first time diving in Capones in 10 years.

Two islands

Capones Island is about 3 km off the shores of Barangay Pundaquit, 13 nautical miles of Barangay San Antonio, Zambales. Northwest of it is a small, or island called Camara Island, named after Antonio de la Camara who planned construction of the Faro de Punta Capones (Capones Lighthouse) in 1884.

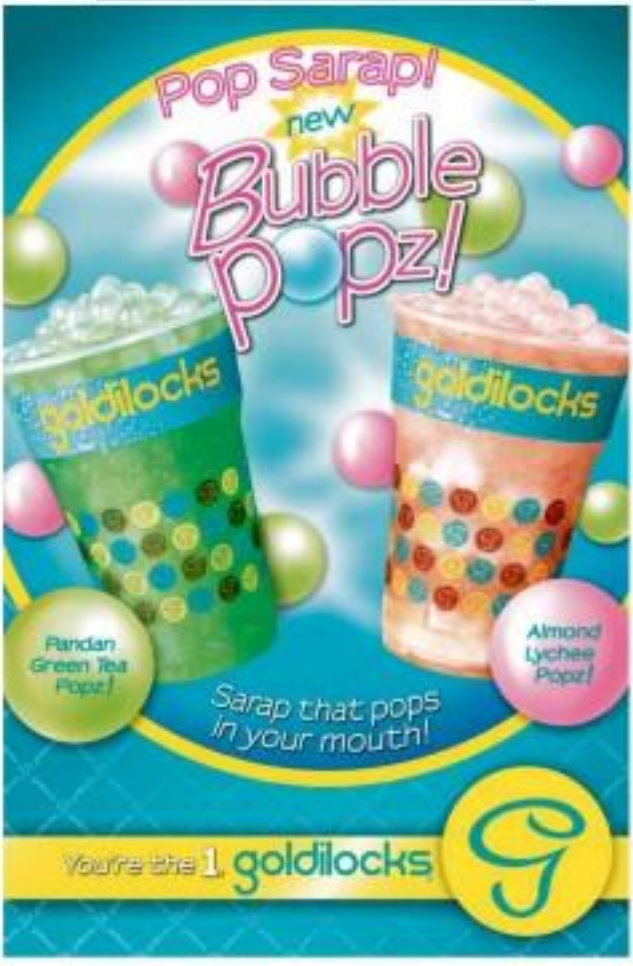
Although Camara Island seems to have another island next to it, the two are actually linked by a sandbar revealed during low tide.

In 2004, the Environmental Protection of Asia Foundation Inc. (Epaf) and the 102nd Squadron and 82 Operations Wing of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary signed a Memorandum of Agreement creating a National Marine Environmental Monitoring System throughout the Philippine Archipelago.

Epaf then proposed the formation of a Marine Protected Area covering an area of ap-

(STORY: 02)

CAPONES lighthouse and shelter with Boying and Linda Santos-Viola



RAMP EsAc

PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK
Holiday 2010

MAY 26 - JUNE 1, 2010 SMX

MAY 26 WED	5:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 4	VISIONS AND TRENDS / DESIGN FUSION
	6:30 PM • PIEDA PAVILION	SUNSILK Co-Creations
	7:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 1	DEPARTMENT STORE
	9:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 2 & 3	JUN JUN CAMBE
MAY 27 THU	5:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 4	PREPPER A Collection
	6:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 2 & 3	READY TO WEAR / NEW GENERATION Collection
	7:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 4	LUXE WEAR A Collection
	9:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 2 & 3	RANG PINEDA • TINA DAVAO
MAY 28 FRI	5:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 4	PREPPER B Collection
	7:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 4	LUXE WEAR B Collection
	9:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 2 & 3	FREDERICK PERALTA
MAY 29 SAT	1:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 4	JEFFREY ROGADOR • KERMIT TESORO • YAKO REYES
	3:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 2 & 3	ALEX PIGAO • DIMPLE LIM • MICHELLE LIM
	4:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 4	PREPPER C Collection
	5:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 2 & 3	SM RESIDENCES presents GIMMY KATIGBAK • RONALDO ARNALDO • LYLE IBAÑEZ and RAOUL RAMIREZ for ESAC
	6:30 PM • PIEDA PAVILION	JAG
	7:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 4	M BARRETTO
	9:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 1	PENSHOPPE
MAY 30 SUN	1:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 4	schooloffashionandthearts
	2:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 2 & 3	ANGELO ESTRA • ODILON SIMPAO • SHANON PAMAONG
	4:00 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 4	CHRIS DIAZ • JEROME SALAYA ANG • JOEL ESCOBER
	5:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 2 & 3	MARLON RIVERA
	6:30 PM • PIEDA PAVILION	human Kashieca bench/
	7:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 4	GRAND ALLURE Collection
	9:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM 2 & 3	MICHAEL CINCO
MAY 31 MON	9:00 PM MEMBERS ONLY	PEOPLE MAGAZINE PARTY
JUNE 1 • TUE	EXCLUSIVE CLOSING PARTY at Ortigas (Strictly invitational)	

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/DIRECTOR: [illegible] DIRECTORS: [illegible] OFFICIAL RUNWAY PHOTOGRAPHER: [illegible] PHOTOGRAPHERS: [illegible]
STYLISTS: [illegible] HAIR & MAKE-UP ARTISTS: [illegible]

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WITH GRATEFUL SUPPORT FROM OUR PARTICIPATING BRANDS AND MEDIA PARTNERS:
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Divers' bittersweet rediscovery of Capones

(more page H3)

DIVERS! energy out off Capones Island

CAPONES Island and lighthouse seen from the bangka

proximately 6 square nautical miles covering the coastal communities of Barangay San Miguel and Pundaquit. Part of their proposal was to restore Capones Lighthouse into its original design.

A long-term rehabilitation effort to restore the dwindling fisheries resources in the coral reefs within the proposed areas was also proposed, with the direct participation of the local community. This project is in the vicinity of their mobile hatchery located in San Antonio, Zambales.

Barangay Pundaquit

Our old route took us through Barangay San Antonio, where the old San Miguel Elementary Consolidated School (now run by the Philippine Navy) was located. This time we followed a Google satellite map to Pundaquit, passing through quaint and picturesque scenery 10 minutes south of the town proper of San Antonio.

We reached the resort before dozens of Pundaquit residents (7:30 a.m. and made our base at Calen Beach Resort, where we had direct access to secured parking, gear preparation area, showers, dining and lounges. The resort had several day huts and a communal barbecue pit on its beach frontage, as well as a 17- to 20-meter rectangular swimming pool surrounded by a row of cabanas on one side and an enclosed dining area on the other.

The double beachhead had coarse gray sand that rose to about 2-3 m above sea level, a sign of how high Pundaquit's north east get during the monsoon season (June-September). These are clearly not the best months to ride a bangka or go diving there.

The dives

The bangka here are smaller than those in Anilao, Batangas. They are equipped with single stroke engines, paddles, no outriggers, no ladders and can only accommodate two divers comfortably with two tanks each and gear. Since we were seven in our group, one bangka had three divers.

After a five-minute boat ride, we finally made our first dive on the northeast point of Capones Island. Although it was breezy, the water was quite calm without any current. As we entered the water, the visibility was astounding, quite blank and about 50+ meters clear in all directions. We could literally see the eyes of other divers despite the distance.

The camera started draping 60 degrees at 15 m down to about 50 at 30m+ tapering to 20-degrees. Although the corals were scarcy, we didn't see abundant reef or pelagic fishes. The biggest of these fishes were about the size of the palm of a hand and quickly hid among the corals.

HIKING Rahul and Sharing Santos-Viola at Capones Island's pathway

FROM left, standing: Hilton Bahar, Sheryng Santos-Viola, Joey Mahiyt, Leonard "Ronnie" Mahiyt, Marina Escalona, Linda Santos-Viola and Dennis Mahiyt

We later took our lunch on the south side of the island. There was a small patch of white sand on the beachhead where we ate and recalled past dive experiences.

After a couple of hours of lunch, we made our second dive in the southeast end of Capones Island. The visibility was still spectacular. The soundscape was a bit different, like little popping into the deep. However, we still could not find any schools of fish.

We asked our boatmen why there were no longer schools of fishes in the area. Divers praised that cyanide fishing had been done in the area for years now. We recalled that in our dives there decades ago, there seemed to have been a bit more fishes there, though not as many as before.

As recalled by retired US Air Force personnel based in the former Clark Air Base, Jim, an encounter with manta rays, sharks, huge moral eels and lobsters was usual off Capones in the late 1960s. But even then he mentioned that "the Filipinos were good at hunting anything shallower. They also fished with explosives."

The incessant outdated fishing methods still practiced today have obviously spooked the fauna into finding a deeper and safer haven.

The lighthouse

Other than its beautiful landscape, the Capones Lighthouse is a special attraction of the island. With a rocky shoreline and some swells, our boatmen did not want to risk anchoring their bangkas on hidden boulders near the shore, so we snorkeled our way to the landing area.

We were surprised to be greeted with pieces of discarded rubber slippers of all sizes and colors washed up along the shore. Not finding any monitoring patrol, we decided to trek up the crumbling concreted stairway. Looking back as we climbed, one could see a spectacular view of the Zambales coastline. Further up we found dry grassy knolls with patches of windblown trees surveying the harsh environment.

The brick lighthouse, a partially restored fragment of the Spanish-era legacy from the 1800s, stands as the highest point of the island. Standing 33 meters above sea level, its bracing serves as an important navigational tool for ships sailing from Manila and Subic Bay to Olongapo. The original light mechanisms were imported from France while local building materials such as bricks, stones, boulders and other materials were brought in using bahays from the mainland.

The red clay bricky used in the main structure were manufactured on the island itself. The lighthouse took six years to construct and put into operation. Today solar cells power the lighthouse, and a marine band radio transmission operates possibly the Coast Guard in case any of its lights or beacons malfunction.

After a few photo ops and more trekking, we started our descent and ended our day's exploration.

Other activities

We motored back in the mainland feeling refreshed by the natural and historical beauty of Capones. After washing up and packing our gear, we took an early dinner at Conor's dining and made plans for the next dive adventures.

Pundaquit has a lot more activities in offer. Capones and Camaya Islands are among the many dive sites in the area. Victory to the islands may do beachhiking through the Pundaquit trails and the mountain peak can be hiked toward the south end of the resort base.

The waterfalls can be found by walking along the riverbed from the shore to about 100 m upstream. They are best seen during the monsoon season, when stronger water currents down the mini river creating several pools.

Dives care should be taken due to unpredictable flash floods in the monsoon season. Pundaquit's peak offers a challenge to both novice and avid climbers, with spectacular panoramic views of the town's Chinese and Dutch cemeteries and some barrio's main streets of Zambales. Of course, the less adventurous types can still enjoy the beaches and resorts.

Mentioning Capones left us with mixed emotions. Our boatmen took care of us well, paddling overboard during our dives. We enjoyed the company, our resort and sightseeing, but the lack of marine fauna posed more questions than satisfaction to our dives.

Although biodiversity has reacted to steady rest in the waters providing better protection to its visitors, the island in itself seems to have been frozen in time, still giving her guests a chance to feel nature's beauty at its best.

THE ADDRESS AT WACK WACK:
Showcasing the best of beauty in condominium living

Belo MEDICAL GROUP

Modern, elegant, and Mediterranean, The Address at Wack Wack is a top of the line development showcasing upscale architecture, amenities, country club like facilities exuding a resort ambiance. The Address at Wack Wack is a masterpiece by two of the most reputable and respected organizations in real estate, Madrigal Land Development Corporation and Tri Ruhaan and Associates, Inc.

To celebrate this grand venture, The Address at Wack Wack will have an open house event on May 30, 2015 at its showroom located at 212 Wilson St. cor Gen Miguel St., West Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

The event dubbed as "Transcendent Beauty, Go Close and Personal" with The BELO Medical Group at The Address at Wack Wack" will be a special treat to unit owners, guests and clients. A Beauty Talk to be conducted by Belo Medical Group will be the main highlight of the event with a raffle draw early to be hosted by Madrigal-Bayan Development Corporation, the company behind The Address at Wack Wack.

Special treats and discounts will be given away during the event. Cocktails start at noon.

For more info about The Address at Wack Wack please visit http://theaddressatwackwack.com

Or you may call (0922) 727-8301 for more information.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

New hotel's grand offering

MARINA BAY SANDS HOTEL LAUNCHES Weekend Offer to Bank visitors for their support of Singapore's nearest destination.

Until June 22, guests can stay in Marina Bay Sands Hotel from Php 2,888+ per room/night. This includes complimentary daily buffet breakfast for two and complimentary room upgrade.

As part of the opening phase, some 800 rooms are now available for booking at: www.marinabaysands.com. Guests can also call Marina Bay Sands' call center at [illegible].

In the coming weeks, the rest of the hotel rooms will be available for public booking, before a Marina Bay Sands' grand opening on June 20.

MARINA Bay Sands opens June 20.

Value hotel chain

[illegible].ph is reinventing the local hotel industry by being the country's first generation value hotel chain that operates like a budget airline. The first [illegible].ph will open next week at the upper ground level of Robinsons Cybergate Plaza along Edsa in Mandaluyong City.

For as low as P388+ a night, one can stay at the rooms with choice of air-conditioned or fan, 100-percent cotton sheets, rain shower and free World Wide Web access and LCD TV.

For inquiries and reservations, log on to http://www.[illegible].ph. Call (632) 6244783, (632) 4480830 or (02) 3883188.

Green Initiatives from the SM Supermalls

TRASH TO CASH: A RECYLING MARKET FAIR AT SM

The SM Supermalls hold its first Waste Market Fair at SM City Fairview in 2007, encouraging customers to bring in their newspapers, plastic products, and electronic wastes, and even used appliances for recycling and registration in exchange for cash and other incentives.

The response was overwhelming, and the success of subsequent Waste Market Fairs led the way to simultaneous fairs held every first Friday and first Saturday of the month in all SM Supermalls nationwide.

Now called Trash to Cash, these monthly events have brought together shoppers and recycling companies, giving a whole new perspective to the Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle mantra.

A joint project of the SM Supermalls in cooperation with the National Solid Waste Management Commission, the Philippine Business for the Environment, CEMPO-Pasig, EPWD-QC, and other government agencies, Trash to cash has become a habit for many environmentally conscious shoppers who wish to dispose of their waste items properly. More than that, the program has generated over P10M worth of recyclable items, saving an estimated 20,000 seven-year old trees.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle at the SM Supermalls

THE PAPER TRAIL

You'll be surprised how Trust International Paper Corporation, one of the participating companies in SM's Trash to Cash recycling market fairs transforms baled paper items into high grade quality recycled paper that is used for newspapers and magazines, businessforms, stationery products, and photo frames.

How does this happen? The waste paper baled is sorted to ensure that materials unsuitable for papermaking are discarded. Sorted papers are then loaded, weighed, and conveyed to the High Consistency Pulper (HCP) which converts it to a fibrous cellulose mass. Chemicals are then added to attain required brightness of pulp, after which bleached pulp is converted to quality paper at the paper machines.

The recycled paper is then reeled on a spool and transferred to the unwind stand for cutting and rewinding, after which the parent roll is recreled into customer ordered sizes. The rolls are then sent to the roll wrapping machine for rolling, wrapping, and labeling. That's how your paper waste is transformed into recycled paper products.

The roll is trimmed down into customer ordered sizes and then sent to the roll wrapping machine.

TIPCO uses 100% recycled paper and is main producer in newsprint.

PLASTIC RECYCLING 101

Plastic products brought to Trash to Cash are purchased by plastic recycling companies like Polymatec, a major purchaser and supplier of plastic scrap materials in Calauan, Laguna. Here's some plastic recycling 101 on how those waste products are transformed into very functional products.

Did you notice that plastic products have identification codes consisting of arrows forming a triangular shape with a number in the middle? That code is key to identifying that kind of plastic, which is the first step in recycling.

Water and beverage bottles, for example are made of PET or Polyethylene Terephalate Material; grocery bags, produce bags, food wraps, are made out of LPDE or Low Density Polythylene; and take home boxes, egg cartons, and CD cases are PS or Polystyrene products.

After the plastics are identified, these are washed, chopped into flakes, and fed into an extruder, where heat the pressure melt the plastic. The molten plastic is then formed into strands, which are then chopped into uniform pellets. These plastic pellets are then sold to manufacturing companies who can use these as raw materials for new products.

A wide range of products may be made from these plastic pellets – items for the home like baskets, chairs, toys, as well as construction materials like PVC sewer pipes, flooring and window frames. Those can also be made into plastic bags, CD and video cassette cases, garden furniture, fiber filling for sleeping bags, and office furniture.

What is saved when recycling plastics? Recycling plastics conserves non-renewable fossil fuels as plastic production uses eight percent of the world's oil production. It also reduces the consumption of energy, reduces the amounts of solid waste going to landfills, and reduces emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and sulfur dioxide. Keep this in mind when you properly dispose of your plastic waste.

A wide range of products are made from recycled plastics include polypropylene pail, clothes hanger, basket chairs, trays, PVC sewer pipes, compact discs, cassette cases and a variety of office accessories.

TECHIE TRASH

Customers who have traded their electronic wastes will be happy to know that HWR Environcycle, Inc., SM's recycling partner, handles excess and obsolete industrial wastes in an environmentally friendly manner.

The company, which is located in Calauan, Laguna, manages unwanted or surplus products by providing optimum recovery methods, as well as solutions to e-waste problems without endangering the environment. Through the HWR Group Affiliates, wholesale, retail, and auction operations become viable channels for the re-marketing of reusable assets like spare parts, tools, shelvings, and office furniture.

Recycled material can be used as a feedstock in manufacturing new products.

Surplus machinery can be repaired, improved and refurbished in order to give them a second life.

RECYCLED STYLE

KKLIKS Foundation, a multi-purpose environmental cooperative, transforms tetra packs and other waste materials into fashionable items like bags and necklaces. With a production capacity of 40,000 bags a month exported to the US, Denmark, Sweden, Japan, and Korea, it provides livelihood opportunities for 200 families.

Do your share for the environment by taking part in the SM Supermalls' Trash to Cash recycling market fair every first Friday and First Saturday of the month from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at all SM Supermalls nationwide.

A unique recycled t-shirt and spaghetti strap top made of recycled newspapers

This hand bag with wooden handle is made of disposed tetrapaks of different brands

INSIDE
- Can't upstage Sarah Jessica Parker /J1
- Charice debuts at No. 8 on Billboard /E2

ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Emma Q. Valverde
E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

This Pinay's got talent

West End star talks about fame in the time of 'Glee,' YouTube and 'American Idol'

JOANNA Ampil returns home with a new CD.

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By Rayvel San Diego Jr.

AFTER 17 YEARS IN LONDON SO MUCH OF the West End musicals "Miss Saigon," "Les Miserables," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and most recently, "Avenue Q," Filipina singer-actress Joanna Ampil finally returns home with a new CD, "Try Love" (Sony Music).

The long wait seems almost irrational, considering that home recitals—even non-singers—have churned out albums that have turned platinum to throw parties.

She takes it all in stride.

"It's never too late. I just wanted to try it," she said. She only wishes to sing for her compatriots, especially her family.

Still, what's her take on the non-singers with platinum-selling albums?

"I respect really everyone because I haven't heard them yet," she noted. "But hey, whatever works for them ... if [they will] support their CDs, good for them."

She is certain that the popularity of non-singers won't affect the careers of real artists.

"We have different markets anyway. To-tally different. I don't think the fans of non-singers would buy my CDs," she said.

Still, if a true-to-life talent is still victimized on various platforms—whether in big-screen musicals like "Mamapay," small-screen hits like "Glee," reality shows like "American Idol," or video-sharing websites like YouTube.

Will she ever consider guesting on "Glee"?

"Of course," she quipped. "I think it's a realistic depiction of the theater scene."

It became a hit, she said, because of the

TWO (2)

"I'M NOT a selfish [one]," says Kris Aquino.

Kris leaves talk shows, for now

By Marinel R. Cruz

KRIS AQUINO'S LEAVE FROM ABS-CBN talk shows "The Buzz" and "DZMM" might be temporary.

That's according to her "Buzz" co-host and one of two managers, Boy Abunda, who added: "We don't know how long this will last."

Aquino, youngest sister of incoming President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, recently announced she would quit "DZMM" on June 15 and "The Buzz" on June 17 after a meeting with ABS-CBN executives last week.

"She doesn't want to cause problems to her brother's presidency," Abunda told Inquirer Entertainment on Thursday. "Meanwhile she can do other things on TV. She can still host a game show just like 'Pilipinas Game KNB?' She doesn't need to be in a talk show."

In her Twitter account, Aquino said that she will likewise stop appearing in the drama series "Ikaw Lang Ang Mahal" in mid-August. She is mulling the possibility of hosting a lifestyle/travel program when she returns from a three-week vacation in September.

"Kris does not want to be in a program

ONE (1)

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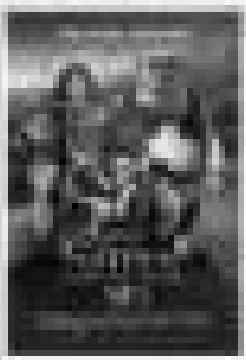

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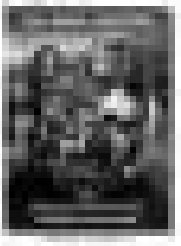
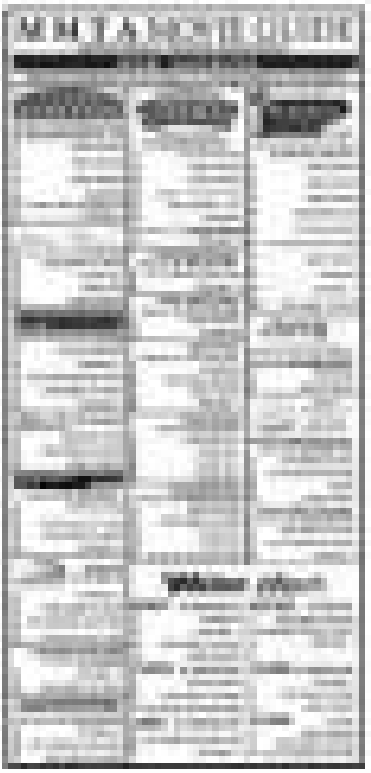




RUSHES SUNDAY

Romantic date for... three!

TALK ABOUT DOUBLESPEAK. TO even her closest pals, Beautiful actress denies her relationship with Lesbian Riddly. But the couple was spotted dining in a posh restaurant recently.

Nothing the media there. Then they were joined by male Gay Friend. What gave. BA and LB away, however, were small, intimate details. A male saw LB wrap her arms around BA as they stepped out of the room— "Shall-o Filial Angkin!"

Allies in defeat

Here that Glamorous Host's confession is on the verge of losing to the election, she's bound an ear likely ally in Gorgeous Star, whose her vain debut is Leo as well.

According to the rumor mill, LB1 constantly commiserates with GS—extending her grief about the recent political exercise. Have they found a common enemy in Popular Celebrity, who turned out to be a breezing in the end? Or does money simply love company?

Touch a friend

Steve Comedienne was in a mischievous mood and playfully reached out to touch Comwoman Hank's private parts.

FC thought GF would merrymaking but he froze and her hands landed on the hotel's jewels. "That's how I know he's the best stallion among his bench mates," said FC.

This was confirmed by Guy Director who also had a "first hand" experience with GS.

Alcoholic not so anonymous

Rumors have been circulating about Acclaimed Actress' alleged drug rehabilitation ... stints abroad or in the basement of a five-star hospital.

The recovery gossip has set to die down, but Ad is already linked to another intrigue, like erratic behavior and troublesome work habits are allegedly due to alcohol.

Despite close to Ad Hoby deny Dis.

Curly hunt's end

The whisperers in the media are getting louder and louder: Sexidancer/host's days are numbered.

Self-righteousness allegedly offended her top brass. They want fil out, asap.

Another insider believes GI will quickly bounce back, though. But even a cat only has nine lives and GI has surely exceeded the limit.

Simon's soft side

LOS ANGELES — Simon Cowell showed Americans his softer side on Thursday, telling tiyuak Wheelers he suffered from depression and that he had made "some absolutely horrific mistakes."

The normally abrasive "American Idol" judge said during an appearance on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that he was prone to dark moods. "I get very, very down," Cowell, 50, said.

He had a strong ego, he said. "I made some absolutely horrific mistakes. I thought I was absolutely untouchable."

The interview was broadcast a week before the May 16 finale of "American Idol," which will mark the end of his eight-year association with the most watched TV show in the United States. Reuters

Top of the tabloids

The top show his stories in In. comic tabloid Bandera last week.

HELLA, what could have gone wrong with that kiss? Was it bad?

(And why we are stunned, if we are stunned.)

✦Kristine Hermosa, bumisi na, at Dyan Castro ang anak? (Surprise?)

✦Nelot nga-marte pe si Sharon nilo ni Sam Milby. (Nasilo na lang, Shy!)

✦Sam may bagong dyowa. Sino, nagwala. (Ang sitch ni Mother!)

✦Iya Aquino hindi makikitulog kay Nayoung. (Quite many kasi.)

✦ "Presidential nose? Mas gusto ko First Nose!" — Kris Aquino (Klassic!)

✦Jenny Hills, kinalyo ako sanko. Pahiri ng ang papaya-cream! (Kinky!)

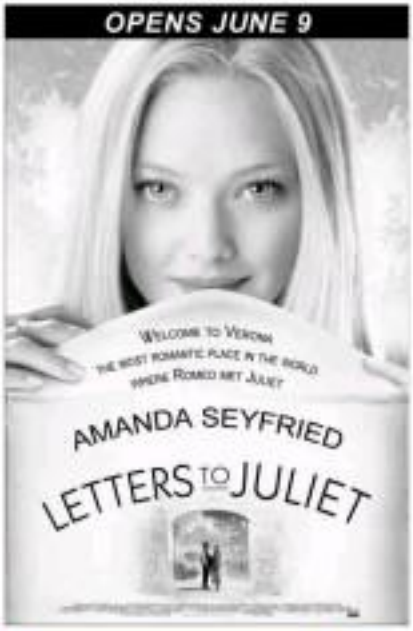
✦Jennylyn na-check in "I love you' ni Dennis. (Hindi ngano.)

✦Cristine Reyes, gringrado ano Dennis or Jennylyn? (Nat tuby!)

✦Anto Bautista na-shock sa ar-kiring pagbisi ni Rosanne Rosanna (Kinis eh!)

✦Marsil Rodriguez tulot si Isabelang si Nobie Padilla. (Tulot nga kaya?)

✦Babaeyang Angel Locsin-Chito Miranda lancome na. (How else's a shooter, don't you think?)



ENTERTAINMENT

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Can't upstage Sarah Jessica Parker

"I'VE always been interested in people elsewhere. We live in such a rarefied world," says Sarah Jessica Parker, who made quite an entrance in the press conference wearing a provocative black dress.

NEW YORK—SARAH JESSICA Parker eventually didn't allow herself to be upstaged by her "Sex and the City 2" costars one ironic afternoon.

The last to be interviewed among the cast, Parker made quite an entrance in a provocative black dress, turning around to show her back which was plunged to ass-through lace. The newest pink bra stood out under the lace, while her voluptuous black dress seemed like an architectural feat.

She gladly recited off the makers behind this scene-stealing look: "I'm wearing an old, archived Christian Lacroix dress. The dress actually is now slightly in the UK where I live, Nicholas Kirkwood. The bra, by Deborah Mompit, I can equally incorporate part of the piece."

In the second movie outing of the four Manhattanites reunion, writer-director Michael Patrick King sends them off to vacation in Abu Dhabi where she devises prompt displays of fashion, of course, and musings about career, marriage and, surprise, even a brief side story about overseas workers in the Middle East.

Asian subplot

This subplot involves an Asian butler of Sarah's character Carrie Bradshaw in the opulent hotel where the gang of trendy ladies is staying. We told Sarah that it was also of the film to touch, however briefly, on the experiences of overseas workers in places like Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and about how many of them, including DWSs (Domestic Helper Workers), are separated from their families for long periods.

"When Michael went to Dubai for research, he met butlers who shared their stories with him," Sarah explained how the subplot about overseas workers came about. "Michael was really moved. I've always been interested in people elsewhere. We live in such a rarefied world. If you go further out, people are working really hard. The rewards are tiny. But those people nonetheless have fulfilling lives that are important to their community. I love that we get to make that observation. In fact, there was more of it in the script that we didn't even get to shoot because our couldn't afford to keep rolling that particular story."

Off to her fans, Sarah added: "When I first read the script, there was this beautiful, cinematic scene that I felt in love with and which was very hard to let go. It was just an image of where Carrie and Miranda (Cynthia Nixon) first go in the week. Michael wrote this beautiful scene inspired by his research in Dubai. His words are said as Carrie stands on a boat, seeing all these working people and a lot of older people who are still working. It really affects her as she travels from the new to the old versions of Abu Dhabi, from her point to the future—to the opposite direction. I'm glad that you could see a little bit of it. I wish we could have shown you more. We simply weren't able to, but I love that part of the story."

This is our commentary about the (1990s), of course. "Sex and the City 2" sees Abu Dhabi (actually Morocco) as a backdrop for the ladies to arise in high fashion even in the desert heat, in the lens of a soundtrack that features songs by artists from Erykah Badu, Lenny Kravitz, Jennifer Hudson to Cyndi Lauper.

"It's just an embarrassment of riches," Sarah, who is also the film's producer, said of the clothes (some are precious vintage items) this time were lent by fashion houses. "We've been so fortunate that generally have been so generous with the loan of clothes and accessories. I've been shooting it in a library, it's an honor system. If we are so privileged to borrow a dress, it's incumbent for us to ensure it in the bathroom which one got it. If we return a dress, we get to borrow more."

Sentimental favorites

Of the ensembles that she gets to wear, Sarah confessed: "There are things in this movie that are now my sentimental favorites, especially the outfit that I wear when I run into Aidan (John Corbett) in the souk. I love that because it's (couturier designer) Patricia Field at her finest. The ensemble is so anthropocidy Carrie—chic and new, vintage and important couture pieces. There's the big purple

(SEE P. 5)

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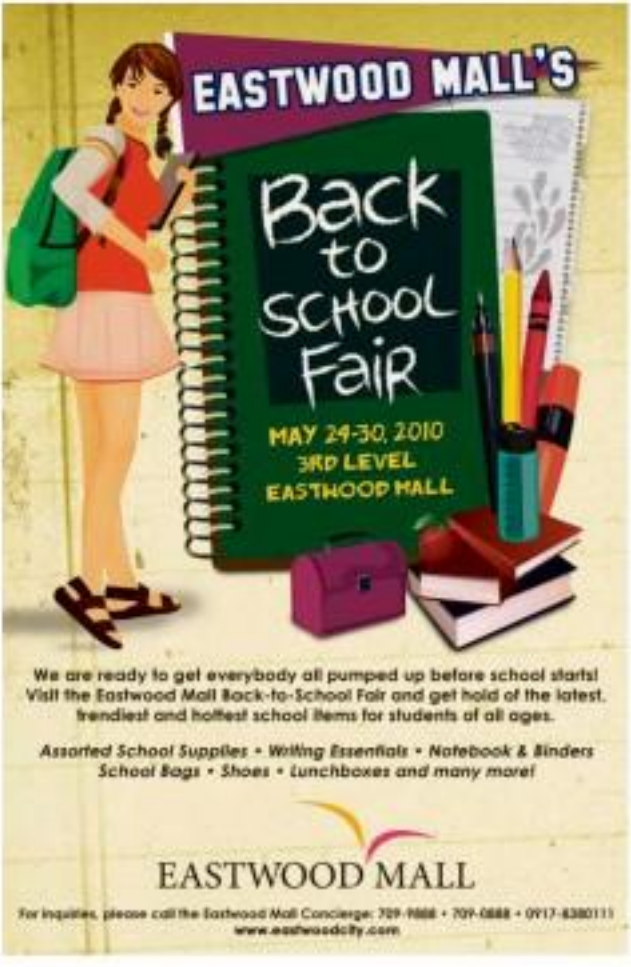

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Can't upstage Sarah. . .

From page 3

dish—it's the underpinnings of a Zac Posen dress that was hanging. 'Ah, now it and I thought, let me put that on for a second. It's really setting us a timeline and I love that we were trying to be observant of the culture and cover our shoulders. I love the way it came together. These Muslim ladies are the wonderful antics in Morocco examines with such curiosity were made for the movie."

Sarah disclosed that "there are occasions when a designer said, 'You have it.' So the dress goes in my archive that I've been working on. It's proud of this archive which is like a storage area. It's humongous, it's real."

The star claimed that she has a small wardrobe space in the New York brownstone she shares with her husband, actor Matthew Broderick, son James Wilkie and twin daughters Loretta and Tabitha. She said, "I have a very small closet because space is a premium in New York. I don't keep anything that's purely important to me. I have a lot of clothes that are good for being a mother; I have a lot of jeans, sundresses and sweaters that children can spit up on. I have T-shirts that I can wipe a train with...things like that."

Asked to describe her home, Sarah answered: "The house has the colors of fall. We've had the same furniture for years, brought from house to house. The house has a lot of art. A lot of photographs." Referring with a smile to a scene in the movie involving Carrie, Mr. Big (Chris Noth) and a fat screen TV, Sarah added, "We do have a television in the bedroom. It was a debate but thanks to 'Home Theater International' (her favorite show ever), I no longer complained. We have a lot of books. We have a room chock-a-block with children's art almost every floor. They're for James and me. I figured something out, though. If you don't deprive a child of candy, he is not that interested."

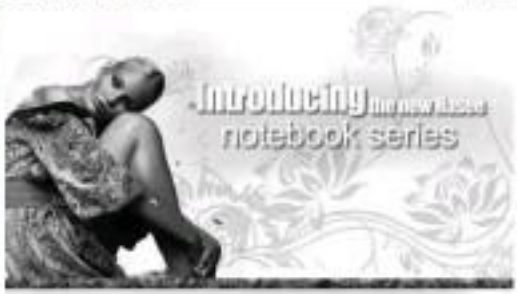
Parent first

"I have the fact that I get to be a mother," the 45-year-old fashion icon said. "It was something I always wanted to do and I'm. I'm one of eight children. I love the environment of a crowded, chaotic house. I thought it was really important that my son has siblings. I thought he was a child of privilege and he should have to share and have a larger community than his own."

"I'm a parent first and a style second," she stressed. "Frankly, that's the way I look at my role even in life. I get to be a working person because a career is still important to me. It makes me a better mother. I like to go out in the world and have experiences. I've already enjoyed sharing them with my son. He has traveled to places and met interesting, extraordinary people. He's met people from all walks of life and colors, shapes, sizes and ages. He's seen cultures that are so different from his own and that's a byproduct of the work that I get to do."

Sarah said that her daughters will also have an opportunity to see women and young

SEE PAGE 14



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Can't upstage Sarah Jessica Parker

From page 13

children all over the globe. 'At the world gets smaller, it's important that I do that as a parent and I do the best I can. Are there days that I fall short? Absolutely, as any woman who works out of the home will tell you the same thing.'

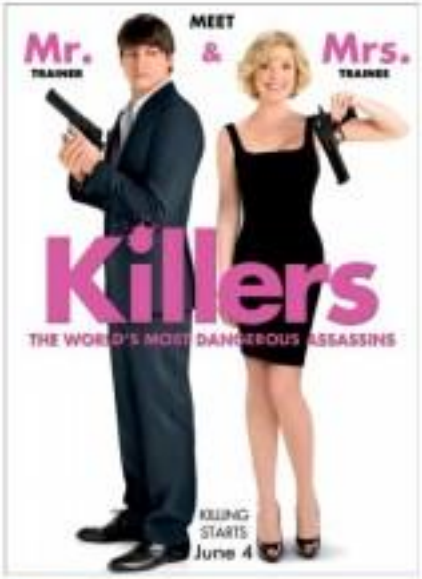
On the challenges of having twins, who were born via a surrogate, Sarah said: "If you're holding one, you're immediately feeling lousy about the fact that you're not holding the other one. The minute you hold one, the other crumbles right up on you and finds a way to get the other one out of your arms. They're very driven. The biggest challenge really is to not compare them, like 'Valentina is standing. Why isn't Loretta standing?' They are individuals."

Sarah recounted: "The other night I was home alone with them. They both started sobbing [separately]. My husband was out. I woke James Wilkie up and he helped me. Then Matthew came in like a white knight. They immediately quieted down. They were no longer inconsolable when they saw their father with in the door."

She described the girls: "Physically, they are as different as they could be. They do not even look related. Temperamentally, they're also completely different. They don't in any way act like blood relatives. It's fabulous but I'm so grateful for that. I think it's going to be good for them to be so different."

Like James, the girls will have to cope with the paparazzi camping out in front of their house when they start going to school. "Strangely, it has gotten worse," Sarah said of the paparazzi. "There's far more outside the house every morning. They follow us to school. Some are somewhat stalkerish."

She feels the intrusion when she's with her kids. "What's more upsetting than their presence is the hostility that you feel and the provocative things they say in hope of your children to hope for some response, whether it's physical or verbal reaction from you," she said. "There's the ever-present video camera near the flip cameras that are ubiquitous to get a nasty word out of you. It's a really antagonistic relationship."

About her ex, Sarah said: "He's pretty level-headed about it. On a few occasions I've lost my temper or said something like, 'What were you[r] mother think of you?' Those hard-hitting things [laughing]. My son comments on that. It doesn't make a lot of difference actually do I even bother. He's pretty wise about it. I'm sure he wishes it weren't happening. As an actor, you're supposed to be able to honor an opportunity to sit and observe the world. I love grocery shopping. I love the subway. I love walking my son to school. In it [paparazzi presence] just changes the whole experience and it doesn't give you a real way of living."

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